

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OF

## Politics and General Literature.

VOL. II.]

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1823.

[No. 60.

### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

—129—

#### Politics of Europe.

The Shipping Reports for the last two days, since the issue of our Paper of Saturday, have been blank. The Sir EDWARD PAGET, THAMES, ELIZA, and the brig SUN, proceeded to sea on Saturday.

Madras Papers received by Dawk yesterday, report no arrivals at that Presidency, and furnish little of novelty.

*The Pope*—The death of this illustrious personage was daily expected to take place at the date of our last accounts. The probability of this event has given rise to a great many speculations relative to his successor. Amongst others it is observed, by the CHRONICLE :

"The reports of the illness, and even death of the Pope and the certainty that this can be no very distant event, have revived, it is said, with more than usual keenness, the political and ecclesiastical intrigues with which that prize is sought. Austria naturally seeks to confirm and extend her dominion in Italy by the appointment of a Pope in her interest, and one of the Archdukes, who is a Cardinal, is spoken of as the probable successor."

*The British Constitution*.—Among other nice points in the British Constitution, is the supposed balance of powers, in which our forefathers were great believers. Some German metaphysicians, nearly fifty years ago, began to question the existence of any such balance, perceiving no cessation of action under the British Constitution, while powers which balance must necessarily neutralise each other, and thereby render all action impossible. The same idea was taken up about the same time in this country by Mr. Bentham in his Fragment on Government, one of the most acute publications in the English language. A similar view was also taken by Dr. Franklin, who argued that double Legislatures independent of each other could only be mischievous.

Mr. Bentham in his late work on Parliamentary Reform, laughs heartily at Blackstone and his Balances, and unhesitatingly admits that Democratic ascendancy would be the result of such a Reform as would give independence to the House of Commons.

Mr. Canning we see takes the same view of the results which an effective Parliamentary Reform would produce. "Let us beware, Gentlemen (he says), of allowing the introduction of a system which would act by power and not by reason—which would govern by authority and not by that salutary conflict of opinions and of interest which at present exists—a system which to act at all must act alone. It is because I feel this that I find it necessary to oppose Reform. Gentlemen, it has been said that the influence of the Crown operates so powerfully in the House of Commons that it perverts all its decisions. . . . Will you derange the whole machinery of the Constitution by placing the whole at the disposal of a single body ?

Mr. Canning is well aware that the cause of the harmony in the working of his British Constitution, is that the power which moves the House of Lords and Commons is one and the same, and that the latter differs from the former merely in having a few Representatives from popular places who may if they choose express the wishes of the people without being able to give effect to them. The Members of both Houses form part of a body having interests distinct from those of the people in general, which

they can gratify at the expence of that people, by the usual means of misgovernment. He is aware that the question at issue is, whether uncontrollable power shall continue to be enjoyed by those who must necessarily abuse it, or whether the people themselves, who can have no interest in their own misgovernment, shall have the nomination of the depositaries of power? He has not blushed the question—he tells his hearers that the great struggle in the present day throughout the world lies between those who wish to advance their separate interests at the expence of the people, and the people themselves; and he decides in favour of the former. He did not attempt to show that a set of men possessed of uncontrollable power would not avail themselves of it to promote their own interests at the expence of the community; or that, in the working of the British Constitution, the truth of the position was not amply demonstrated.

With regard "to the mighty power of public opinion guided and directed by the Public Press," to which Mr. Canning alluded, he may be assured that power will harmonize very ill with the system for which he is an advocate. Mr. Robinson thought that matters might be squared by increasing the mass of corruption in something like the ratio of the increase of knowledge, by way of a countervailing power. This is something like throwing oil into the flame by way of extinguishing it. If the system is sound, the Press will serve to strengthen it; but if it is unsound, it will ensure its destruction. Misgovernment must destroy the Press or the Press will destroy misgovernment. We might ask Mr. Canning why any set of men should wish to have the power of promoting their separate interests at the expence of the community, if they did not mean to avail themselves of it? We might ask him farther, if he thinks it possible for any men to have such a power without their availing themselves of it, to promote their interests? If it is impossible then that power in such hands should not be abused, why render the abuse more glaring by bringing it in contact with the light of the Press?

*The Peterborough Questions*.—The statement of the Bishop of Peterborough having abandoned his Questions to those who offer themselves as candidates for holy orders, has been already contradicted. What might have led to the report, is, that the bishop proposes a different set of questions in the examinations of curates, from those which he proposes to the candidates for holy orders.—The latter set the bishop proposes as heretofore, without any alteration. Another reason also may have occasioned this report, for the bishop used to send copies of the questions to the candidates for holy orders, that they might duly weigh them, and answer them at leisure, but he now confines the examination to Peterborough. The following extract taken from a note to the printed account of his lordship's speech in the House of Lords, will illustrate this point:—"My conduct," says his lordship, "in this respect has been so misunderstood, and the openness with which I have acted has by many persons been so abused, that I have been compelled to relinquish it. At my last ordination and examination, questions were answered at Peterborough, and so they will be in future."—Thus we find that the bishop has merely relinquished his former practice of sending the questions, but not the questions themselves.

*Discovery Ships*.—A firm and impenetrable barrier of ice prevented the Davis's Straits fishing ships from going to the westward, which is, perhaps, the cause why we have heard nothing

## —130—

of the Discovery Ships. From the accumulation of ice, however, in the mouth of the Straits, there is a great probability, may, almost the certainty, of the sea being open towards Lancaster Sound, and to the westward. It is probable that by this time the barrier is broken up, and the ice floated into the Atlantic. The appearance of such a quantity augurs not only a severe winter last season in these parts, but an open spring and summer, which had spoken up the ice to the westward and in the bottom of the bay.

*Deptford Yard.*—The establishment of artificers, &c. now upwards of 1,000, are to be reduced to 400, by discharging 35 every fortnight; all the other Dock-yards are to be reduced nearly in the same proportion. A considerable number of clerks and inferior officers will likewise be dismissed with small pensions. Mr. Weddell, clerk of the dock at Sheerness-yard, is appointed to Deptford, vice Mr. Moss; and Mr. Pownell goes to Sheerness. Mr. Hawkes, assistant to the master shipwright at Deptford, goes to Chatham, vice Hillier. Mr. Smith, clerk of the dock at Chatham, vice Gainer, superannuated.

A vessel has arrived at Guernsey from Valparaiso, which sailed subsequently to the date of any intelligence yet received from thence. A letter from the Captain states, that no less than 80 merchant ships were at Valparaiso, and that from the disastrous state of trade, it was probable that most of them would be obliged to go to India for return cargoes.

*Ecclesiastical Deprivation and Deposition.*—There seemeth to be some confusion in the books concerning the deposing or depriving of a Bishop. The truth is deposing is one thing, and depriving is another thing very different. Deposition implies the taking away, or putting him from the office itself, or degrading him from the order of Bishop; deprivation only takes from him the exercise thereof in such a particular diocese, leaving him still Bishop as much as he was before, and only vacates his promotion. As to the former of these, the power of *deposing*, Dr. Ayliffe says, that by a canon of the council of Leteran, Bishops cannot be deposed by their metropolitans, without the Pope's leave or license so to do; even as a Bishop cannot by his power alone depose any Clerk from his orders, though he may by himself give a person orders. And Dr. Godolphin says, that the consecration of a Bishop is *indebilis*: insomuch that although it should so happen, that for some just cause he should be deprived or removed from the See, or suspended *ab officio et beneficio*, both from his spiritual jurisdiction as to the exercise and execution thereof, and also from the temporalities and profits of the bishopric; yet he still retains the title of a Bishop, for that it is supposed the order itself cannot absolutely be taken from him. But as to deprivation, Dr. Ayliffe says, that in England an Archbishop may deprive a Bishop, if his crime deserves so severe a punishment; and that it is said in her canon law, that a Bishop who is unprofitable to his diocese ought to be deprived, and no coadjutor assigned him, nor shall he be restored again thereunto, —(BURN's Ecclesiastical Law).—From these authorities we may collect how much more easy it is to make, than to *nominate* a Bishop; there indeed appears to be some reason to doubt whether the episcopal character once bestowed can be effaced, and if it be of this *indebilis* nature, however unworthy the name of man, he must still remain essentially a Bishop. Several Bishops were deprived under Mary, and afterwards restored by Elizabeth, and it does not appear that their deprivation was esteemed as having effaced the character of Bishop; indeed the possibility of restoration contemplated in the canon law would imply, that though removed from the functions, the episcopal character still remains, with the capacity to resume those functions.

*Nationality.*—At the great civic dinner given on Saturday last by the Provost and Corporation of Edinburgh to his Majesty, Lord Lauderdale proposed the following toast:—"The University of Edinburgh, and may it retain its superiority over the other Colleges in Europe."

*Canning Club nine times nine.*—The health of Mr. Canning was drunk at the Canning Club with nine times nine; and such was

the rapture, that after a moment's pause, it was repeated with another nine times nine—one-hundred and sixty-two shouts! Verily, the throats of the company are extraordinary, whatever may be said of their brains. THE LIVERPOOL COURIER gravely concludes its report, with an assurance that the entertainment was very intellectual.—*Morning Chronicle*.

*Statement made by the Sheriff to the Editors of the different Edinburgh Newspapers, Sept. 12, 1822.*—“Most of the Editors of the different Edinburgh Newspapers having attended at the Sheriff's Office, in consequence of a note from the Sheriff, the Sheriff stated to them, that a letter had appeared in the EDINBURGH OBSERVER of the 5th, signed “A. To. M'Donnell,” and other two in the OBSERVER of the 9th, signed “A Celt,” and “Mac-Mhic Alastair;” That these letters, in the Sheriff's opinion, tended to provoke a breach of the peace: That he considered himself entitled to stop any paragraph from appearing in a paper which had any such tendency: That he did not wish to have any discussion with the Editors of the different Edinburgh papers, as to their right of inserting any articles in their papers, or the Sheriff's right of stopping any articles that lead to a breach of the peace; and he trusted, that the good sense of the Editors of the different papers would render any such discussion unnecessary. He therefore left it entirely to the good sense and discretion of the Editors not to insert any paragraphs relative to the discussion between Glengarry and the Celtic Society, which might tend to hurt the feelings of any individual, or any paragraphs on any other subject that might lead to personal quarrels. He was aware that this might be a very difficult matter for the Editors of Newspapers; but the Editors knew well, that if they once inserted paragraphs of a provoking tendency from one quarter, they could not easily refuse to receive paragraphs on the same subject from the opposite party. And on the whole, this was a matter which, after the recommendation and earnest now given, the Sheriff would leave to the good sense of the Editors of the different papers.”

This official letter evinces all that benevolent solicitude for the peace of the country, which does honour to our Magistrates, and in which we entirely concur. It were ingratitude in us not to acknowledge the kindness of removing from us all responsibility for the articles which may be inserted in our columns, by hinting that there is an authority which possesses a right of surveillance over them which we fancied was exclusively our own. We are always happy to be informed of our errors; and, till we received this letter, it was probably one of them, to imagine that no Control existed in this respect, save what arose from our own discretion.

The terms of the latter leave us in doubt whether we are to be abandoned, for the future, to the weakness of that quality, or to have our compilations sanctioned by an imprimatur. We shall not voluntarily take any steps to be relieved from the ambiguity; but shall leave the question as a disciple of Pyrrho would have left it, remarking only, that if such a right had existed in the year 1769, a letter, bearing date 14th September in that year (and which may be found in the collection of Junius,) would not have been printed. It is our desire not only to submit to lawful authority, but to enforce, by precept and example, submission in others.—*Edinburgh Observer*.

Glengarry is bound to keep the peace, by a justiciary warrant, in 5000L, as we understand.—*Idem*.

*American Literature.*—Among the highly respectable American productions which have recently appeared in the Poetical Departments of Literature, it is with pleasure we announce that one, by our fellow citizen, Samuel B. Beach, Esq. of Mount Clemens, in this territory, will shortly assume a conspicuous place. “Escalala,” is a Poem of five cantos, descriptive of the wars, festivals, and other customs of the aborigines of our country, and some of its most interesting scenery. From the specimens we have been permitted to see, we hazard little in saying that, in regard to its general interest, ornament and execution, Escalala will compare well with the best modern productions of the British Muse.—*Detroit Gazette*.

*Wooler's Liberation.*—Although we have uniformly questioned the wisdom of the proceeding which led to the incarceration of this spirited and able writer; and, although we not unfrequently differ from him in his views of politics, yet we congratulate him most cordially upon his recent liberation. He is a powerful, eloquent, and what is of infinitely greater importance, a consistent and honest advocate for those measures which he deems essential to the liberty and welfare of his country. His liberation, after fifteen months' confinement, took place on Monday, the 29th ultimo, when he entered Birmingham in triumph. A public dinner was given on the occasion, at which were present Sir C. Wolseley, Thomas Northmore, Esq. Mr. Edmonds, Mr. Saxton, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Wroe, and many others who have suffered in the cause. About 700 persons sat down to dinner and amongst the guests given, were the following:—

The health of Mr. Thomas Jonathan Wooler, the able, eloquent, and intrepid defender of the people's rights.

Sir Charles Wolseley, Bart. (the Chairman.)

The immortal Memory of the Barons of Runnymede, who forced the tyrant John to sign Magna Charta; and may the Barons of every age emulate their glorious example.

The health of the venerable Major Cartwright, the personification of inflexible virtue and inextinguishable patriotism, whose heart burns with the love of liberty, even under the cold hand of death.

The Captive of Ilchester, Henry Hunt, Esq.; and may his exertions to bring the murderers of Peterloo to justice be crowned with complete Success.

Thomas Northmore, Esq.

*Cross Examination.*—In an assault case at York Assizes, a witness named John Labron was thus cross-examined by Mr. BROUGHAM:—What are you?—I am a farmer, and melt a little. Do you know Dick Strother?—No. Upon your Oath, Sir, are you not generally known by the name of Dick Strother?—(much confused.) That has nothing to do with this business! I insist upon having an answer; have you not, from the notoriety of your character as a *far*, obtained that name?—(very reluctantly) I am sometimes called so. (laughter.) Now Dick! as you admit you are called so, do you know the story of the hare and the ball of wax?—I have heard of it. Then pray have the goodness to relate it to his Lordship and the Jury.—I do not exactly remember it. Then I will refresh your memory by relating it myself:—Dick Strother was a cobler, and being in want of a hare for a friend, he put into his pocket a ball of wax and took a walk into the fields, when he soon espied one. Dick then very dexterously threw the ball of wax at her head, where it stuck, which so alarmed poor puss, that in the violence of her haste to escape, she ran in contact with the head of another; both stuck fast together, and Dick! lucky Dick! caught both. (reiterated laughter.) Dick obtained great celebrity by telling of this wondrous feat, which he always affirmed as a truth, and from that time every notorious liar in Thorner, bears the title of Dick Strother. Now Dick—I mean John—is not that the reason why you are called Dick Strother?—It may be so. Then you may go.

*American Law.*—A man in a certain part of this State had hived a swarm of his own bees, but from dislike to the hive, the bees left it, and were traced by various witnesses to a neighbour's lot, where they gathered upon the limb of a tree. Information was given to the owner, but in the mean time another man discovered and proceeded to secure them; he had not, however, succeeded in his object before the owner arrived, and forbade his touching the bees, at the same time alledging that they were his property. The man, notwithstanding, took the bees (though not on his own land), and converted them to his own use. The owner accordingly brought an action before one of our modern justices, for the recovery of the value of the bees. The proof on the part of the plaintiff was, that the bees were his, and the defendant converted them to his own use. The Justice, however, for reasons which we shall not here name, decided in favour of the

defendant, giving him costs, &c. whereupon the attorney for the plaintiff filed his exceptions, stating the points proved, which the Justice admitted, and requested his Worship to sign it. The Justice signed it, but afterwards interlined between his name and the words of the bill—"N. B. No proof that the bees belonged to the Plaintiff." Why? said the attorney, you admitted them to have been proved.—Because, said the Justice, they have no ear mark; you cannot hold them according to law.—This is matter of fact, and happened in this enlightened era in the state of Connecticut.—*Connecticut Journal.*

*Paris, August 29.*—The good people of Paris have now three distinct objects to occupy them in three different ways:—The Statue of Louis XIV. to look at—the approaching Congress to talk about—and the State Trials to think of. As to the first, it is a fine thing and fills the gazing eyes of thousands daily, turning their immediate attention from the miserable imitators of the splendid despot before them. As to our part in the forthcoming overflowing of continental tyranny, technically termed a Congress, it is decided. Montmorency is officially announced as the representative of his Most Christian Majesty, and no one is more fit to sail tacitly with the stream of intolerance and usurpation. The talk of Sir Charles Stuart being intended as the Deputy for England seems all at your side of the water. We do not believe it here; and all liberal minds would regret his removal from the station which he fills so ably, to a nomination of that great puppet-shew, as a doll in the hands of the political pupines who are to manage it. With regard to the Trials, by far the most interesting of passing events, I am able to give you a few particulars which you could not have through the journals.

A letter has at length reached me from our Correspondent at Poitiers, by a private conveyance. Several which he had written have been destroyed on their arrival here through the Post. The merchants of that town complain that none of their letters reach their destinations, not even the most common business communications, the Government dreading they might convey information by means of sympathetic ink. The alarm of both Governors and people of the town of Poitiers, is eminently ludicrous. The authorities, knowing how deeply tainted are the troops, are in continual agitation from a dread of Berton being rescued; and the whole of the male ultra population have within a fortnight decorated themselves with white ribbons—but white feathers would have been much more in keeping with their feelings. The great determination of the authorities seems to be to weaken the mind of this unfortunate Berton by outrageous personal annoyances.—He is in want of every thing necessary for comfort and cleanliness; he is without a change of linen; his cloathes are falling to pieces, and as he is allowed but a very small quantity of water, he is necessarily in a state of most disgusting filth. Under pretence of keeping instruments of self destruction out of his way, they took from him an ear pick! in consequence of which he suffered, for several days, great agony from an ear ache, and is not yet recovered from the deafness it caused. It is at once ludicrous and harrowing to record such a mixture of littleness and atrocity. It appears, however, that all this jesuitical cruelty, and even his approaching death, affects his firmness very little. What he dreads most is their administering to him some drug in his victuals which may trouble his reason. He is a man of strong nerves and coarse mind, and has been always remarked for his cynical turn. He feels that he has no chance of escape, and regrets much that he has not been allowed pen, ink and paper, that he might have written the history of his campaign in Spain, where he was distinguished as a most active partisan. Some of his adventures there were of a most extraordinary nature. He was a kind of European Buccaneer, and has been always a man of brute courage, impenetrable sang froid, and a total disregard of consequences. You must take the reports of the trial as you can get them. The reporters sent from Paris by the liberal Journals have been all refused admission, and were arrested on their arrival, but have been since set at liberty.

As to the trial of the Rochelle conspirators, going on here, its result is, like the other, anticipated; one or two victims are

to be sacrificed. The examination of General d'Espinois is to complete the evidence necessary for conviction. This man, who by his insolence has driven the whole city of Nantes into liberalism, said to one of the conspirators, when tempting him to make revelations, "I am myself a Carbonaro, and in less than a month I will put Nantes into the hands of our party." It was of this precious personage that M. de Marchangy, the *Avocat-general*, said the other day in his pleading, that he was a warrior "*sans peur et sans reproche*." Upon this burlesque application of the hackneyed phrase, the audience burst into a shout of laughter, recollecting that the hero in question was best known to the world from an energetic apostrophe addressed to him by Napoleon in Italy, where he was Commandant of a small town. Some grievous complaints being made against him, and their justness proved, Napoleon said to him, "*General, Je savais bien que vous étiez un lâche; mais j'éviens d'apprendre que vous êtes aussi un fripp'n.*" I always knew you for a coward, I have now found out that you are a cheat into the bargain!—*Morning Chronicle, September 2.*

*Court Martial.*—We understand another Court Martial is about to assemble, to try an officer of a distinguished regiment of cavalry. We know not on what grounds a charge can be founded; but we are credibly informed it originated in a wager, made between three officers. One of the party won his bet of 100l. and lost the same sum to another. On applying for the money due, he was requested to wait a short period, as it was not then convenient to discharge the claim. The apology was accepted; but when the wager lost was demanded, he replied, that as he had not received his winnings, he could not think of paying his own loss till the former was arranged. Some misunderstanding consequently arose, and the whole is about to be submitted to the judgment of their Peers.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger, Sept. 2.*

*Melancholy Affair.*—Friday evening (Sept. 20) Mr. Walter Irwin, of Barrack-street, was arrested on a Sheriff's writ, and unfortunately refused accompanying the bailiffs, who, in consequence, wounded him so desperately, that he expired in the Sheriff's Prison, (whither he had been taken subsequently), on Saturday evening (Sept. 19) at half past seven o'clock. Peace-officers Roe, Philips and Thyne, of the Mountjoy-street division, took three persons who are charged with the offence into custody; their names are McCormick, Hetherington and Bolis. The wounds of which Mr. Irwin died were inflicted with a sword-cane.—*Dublin Freeman's Journal.*

*Madrid, August 26, 1822.*—The Marquess of Torre Alta is now here in prison, to be tried, it is said, by the Court Martial of old Generals, recently contrived by Copons, in order to supersede the efficient Tribunal, which condemned Goiffen, and some of the other criminals. It is expected that all the prisoners who may be brought before them will be acquitted; and this is believed to be the purpose of the appointment of such dotards, for which job it is not doubted that Copons has received large bribe. He has, however, been dismissed for this illegal proceeding, and General Villalba appointed Captain-General in his stead. The new Minister as yet go on well. All their nominations have been good patriots. They have changed the Political Chiefs of Cadiz, Barcelona, Malaga, and Alicant, &c., and seem to proceed in a straight forward course. I fear the gold of France more than her bayonets. But they cannot buy the Militia and the Municipalities, which include almost all the population of the kingdom. They will keep all things to rights. The "Factiosos," have been of great use in recruiting and disciplining the Militia; but they are almost disposed of. The Serviles are now beginning to play the back game, by arming bodies of men under the pretence of destroying the Contrabandistas and the Factiosos, and acting without the Militia, killing some factious it is true, but more Liberals. A band of them, it is said, lately went into the village of Alcala, near Madrid, and killed four men, one of

whom was a decided Liberal. All this they do under the cloak of being *Exaltados*; and the Serviles who employ them are in the mean time busy in propagating the report that the Liberals, since the accession of this Ministry, are murdering the people. They have frightened away many French and Catalonians, by giving out that they were all to be massacred; and the talk of there being seven Robespierres in Madrid, meaning the seven Ministers, who are going to murder seven times more than were murdered in Paris during the French Revolution. In short they carry on the old trade of lying with greater diligence than ever. The manufacture increases in proportion to their necessities. Besides, their conspiracies being defeated, they have now nothing to do, and the propagation of falsehood, occupies some portion of their time.

A great many troops, both Militia and regular, are gone to Catalonia and Navarre, which, after extirpating the factiosos, are, it is said, to form a counter-cordon on the frontiers, composed of 40,000 men. If the Ministers continue as they have begun, the Cortes would do more harm than good, as it is not well known how many of them may have touched French gold during their last Session, although it is pretty well ascertained that the permanent Deputation, all except two, have been bought. This is the weakness of the nation, and the strength of its enemies. It were to be wished that some change in this respect might soon take place. The Liberals notwithstanding, increase every day, and the Serviles diminish. Their good natured forbearance and forgiveness, now that they are strong as been much in their favour the number of their external enemies has been much diminished, and the number of their friends greatly increased among the moderate weak people, who were only Serviles from fear. All events seem to finish in favour of freedom however advise they appeared at first; and on reflecting on all the occurrences since I came to Spain, there is scarcely any of them that a good Spaniard or a friend to humanity could wish changed. I think still that Russia intends invading Turkey, but not in summer. That would be giving the Asiatics, an immense advantage over them. They could not get ready last winter, partly from want of money, and partly from the mild winter, which made the mud roads of Russia impassable. They now pretend to conform to the Councils of the Holy Alliance until the hot weather is past, and until they see what the Persians and Greeks will be able to do; for whatever they may do in weakening the Ottoman Power will be a saving of so much labour and expence to themselves. Reasoning from what is known of the cunning of the Russians, I don't think they would trust a man in France. It was British gold, joined to their self-love, injured by the affair of Moscow, that tempted them before; but it is not probable that these inducements can exist at present. All Europe has been under a great mistake concerning the power of Russia. She has neither the population nor army that they pretend. It is one of their cunning tricks to have acute agents in every country, boasting of their immense riches and power. I have met with them at the Table d'Hotes of every Continental Nation, setting forth that Russia had a million of men under arms, could swallow Austria at a breakfast, and make a dinner of the rest of Europe. If Louis XVIII. should go shortly off the stage, the fool that succeeds him, aided and advised by the Ultras, may attempt to invade Spain; but they would be soon defeated by the democratic principles of their own people and troops. It is probable that the successors of Castlereagh may not be so hocknied in the ways of corruption, nor so intoxicated with the fall of Bonaparte, of which they took all the merit, as to join so cordially with the Holy Alliance, but temporise. They must keep up the old house over their heads, until they make their fortunes: and the more prudent and cautious they are, the worse for poor JOHN BULL, who will have the longer to feed them and fill their pockets. The faster they run, the sooner will they arrive at their destruction. I wish them with all my heart, as your factious City Baronet would say, "a speedy arrival and soon."—*Morning Chronicle, September 11.*

# PARLIAMENTARY.

-133-

## The New Marriage Act.

The following is a full affidavit of consent by a parent, necessary to be had in order to the celebration of marriage by license, under the present law. The words marked in italics may be left out, and others substituted in their place, as the case may require:—

"I, the undersigned James Wilks, of No. 400, Pall-mall, in the parish of St. James's, in the city of Westminster, Gentleman, being authorized as the father of John Wilks, who resides with me in the aforesaid house and street, do approve and consent, and do hereby signify and give my approbation and consent, to the marriage of the said John Wilks, to and with Jane Cox of No. 200, in the aforesaid street and parish, widow.

"Dated this 9th day of September, in the year of Our Lord 1822.

"JAMES WILKS."

"Signed, in the presence of us, who respectively witnessed the above-named James Wilks write his signature thereto.

"JOHN DOR"

"RICHARD ROE"

In case of a marriage by banns, the following is a full affidavit necessary to precede the publication of banns. The Act requires that the affidavit shall be in writing, and sworn before the proper minister of the church or chapel where the parties wish to have the banns published, or before one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, by the parties for whose marriage the banns shall be required; and that the affidavit shall be delivered to the minister of the church or chapel before the publication of the banns:—

"John Stiles, of No. 5, Arthur-street, in the parish of St. James's in the city of Westminster, Grocer, and Lucy Baker, of No. 40, Redmond-place, in the parish of Saint Martin, also in the city of Westminster, severally make oath and say: and, first, this deponent, John Stiles, for himself saith, that the Christian and surname and place of abode by which he hath above designated and described himself, are his true and real Christian and surname and place of abode; and he, this deponent, John Stiles, further saith, that he hath resided and dwelt in the house situated No. 5, aforesaid, in the parish aforesaid, in the city aforesaid, as occupier thereof, for the five years last past, and that he, this deponent, is now above the age of twenty-one years.

"And she, this deponent Lucy Baker, for herself saith, that the Christian and surname, and place of abode, by which she hath above designated and described herself, are her true and real Christian and surname and place of abode; and she, this deponent, Lucy Baker, further saith that she hath resided and dwelt in the house situated No. 40, aforesaid, in the parish aforesaid, in the city aforesaid, as a lodger for the last seven days, and that she this deponent is under 21 years of age.

"Sworn by the said John Stiles and Lucy Baker, at No. 200, Hay-market, in the parish of St. James's in the month of September, in the year of Our Lord 1822.

(Minister's or Justice's name.)

"JOHN STILES."

"LUCY BAKER."

The BATH HERALD says, "We understand that orders and regulations for the observance of the officers of the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, for the more effectual performance of their duties under the New Marriage Act, have been issued from the Ecclesiastical Court of Wells, and blank marriage licences, with affidavits, &c. to be used according to the provisions of the Act, are, upon application, sent to the several surrogates within the diocese of Bath and Wells, and that the charge to be made by a surrogate on granting a marriage licence is £1. including all fees, stamp duties, and other expenses: and if the license be obtained from the Registrar-office in Wells, such charge is to be 2s. 6d. only."

Agreeably to the directions of the New Marriage Act, a display of the names, callings, and abodes of cooing swains and blushing nymphs, candidates for admission at the Hymenial altar, took place on Sunday the 1st instant against the church doors at Plymouth, and "lots of people" attend to discover "who is who." On the following day the little boys, on their way to school, were aping the parson in all directions: "I publish the banns of marriage between — and —," repeating the names as they stood upon the board.

On Sunday last (8th instant), the banns of marriage of one solitary couple only were published in our church, a circumstance quite novel at this season of the year, having often before known as many as 20 and even 30 couple asked on a Sunday. Such are the dreadful consequences resulting from the New Marriage Act—an Act which has struck more terror into the hearts of his Majesty's loving subjects than any bill passed by Parliament for a number of years.—*Maidstone Journal*.

## Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, JULY 26. 1822.

### SUPERANNUATION BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER having moved that the report on the superannuation bill be brought up,

Mr. CALCRAFT said, that if the right hon. gent. would make the bill optional towards the present holders of office, and only compulsory in future, he, for one would withdraw his opposition to it. His principal objection to the bill was, that it imposed a partial tax upon persons who had never contemplated it when they first entered upon their situations. Many of them had insured their lives, and they would in future be bound not only to pay the annual premium, but an additional 5 per cent. to secure nothing for the benefit of their families. The house was dealing with a class of persons who had discharged no light or trivial duty to their country, and who had not been by any means overpaid. (hear.) Such as took office knowing that they must submit to this deduction, would of course have no reason to complain. To the principle of superannuation prospectively, therefore, he had no objection whatever. The salaries of the public officers had been reduced—reduced, according to the admission of ministers, as low as possible; yet even from this lessened amount a further and a considerable sum was now to be abstracted. The superannuation fund was to be under the management of the Treasury, and how would the Chancellor of the Exchequer like to have clerks, day after day, coming to him to declare that it was mismanaged? Yet all who complained could have no redress; and it would be highly fit, and merely just, that those who quitted office should be allowed by this bill to recover back what they had contributed without receiving the slightest advantage. The case was one of great hardship and oppression against a class of persons who ought to be peculiarly under the protection of ministers. In or out of office, he had never met with any man who did not think the bill in principle most unfair. Those who voted for it in the house, would, nevertheless, he was persuaded, feel that the measure was highly objectionable. After referring to, and quoting, the correspondence of Lord Sidmouth and Mr. Hobhouse, against the bill, the honourable gentleman contended, in concurrence with them, that it broke public faith with the public servants. The project was founded only on expediency, and it was to be enforced because the persons who were to suffer were weak and defenceless. He relied upon the invincible arguments arising out of the facts, and upon the authority of Lord Sidmouth, declared just before he quitted office. The right honourable gentleman and the noble marquis were turning their men in office against their clerks in office, by requiring the votes of the former on behalf of this odious and cruel bill. The whole economy to be effected was not more than 100,000£. a year, but a saving of greater extent might easily be made elsewhere, and the whole sum might be obtained at once by a review of the transactions of the Government with the Bank of England. (hear.)

Mr. CANNING considered the bill in principle objectionable as any measure that had been ever brought forward: it was most unfair to subject any particular class to peculiar taxation, more especially if that class had been recently held up to public odium. In the arrangements of the measure there was a clear breach of faith. He did not say that it was not in the power of the Crown to reduce the salaries of its official servants without the aid of Parliament; but for this house to originate such a plan was in direct opposition to the address of the last session, and could be looked upon only as a species of parliamentary taxation. The bill was obviously a breach of faith towards all who, since 1810, had devoted themselves to the public service on condition of receiving the benefits which the act of that year held out. He would put an individual case—that of a young man of the highest promise and of most respectable birth, but deprived of his father, who at a time when he was obtaining the honours of his college, and had every prospect of distinguished preferment in the church, was induced to accept a public situation under the Crown on the conditions of the statute of 1810. On those conditions he had relied, but he was now to be told that they were not to be fulfilled—that a large part of his emoluments was to be taken from him, and it was thus to be proved that his friends and he had judged most unwisely in abandoning the original scheme and prospects of his life. This bill would be to him a grievous injury, and he ought almost to be entitled to maintain an action at law for damages. It was impossible to know how many such cases existed, and how many individuals had quitted the law, the army, or the church, under the faith of the act of 1810, relinquishing landed properties and eminent advantages. Constitutionally, this bill might be considered also an invasion of the rights and powers of the crown. Besides, if a man were removed at some future time from office for a fault that did not stain his moral character, he would lose all he had contributed to this fund: it would really be nothing short of pillaging him to turn him out of his place without returning the money he had annually paid. The right honourable gentleman saw no remedy for this objection, but

by defining in the bill for what faults a man should or should not be dismissed, and under what circumstances he should or should not be allowed to withdraw the sum he had contributed to this joint stock tontine, or by whatever other name it might be called. It was utterly impossible to deal correctly with these prospective claims. The first class had gone as far as it could go with respect to degree and to the apportionment of reward; but it was quite evident that things of this nature ought much rather be left to the discretion of those who attended to the skill and ability with which services were performed, than to the operation of a legal enactment. The bill gave all the apparent accuracy of rule to that which could not be governed by rule. It provided not for extraordinary merit—it recognized not services, the performance of which required superior talents. The bill endeavoured to do that which could alone be effectually done by those who were conversant with the concerns of public offices. He knew nothing to which he could assimilate this system of apportioning remuneration according to the number of years, except the mode of reward which he had read of in a Chinese history. The examiner at a Chinese seminary would say, "A has industry as 2—attention as 5— arithmetic as 3—handwriting as 14," and by summing up all these, he struck a total of 24. When he came to B, he would find, perhaps, that he had genius as 6—idleness as 3—learning as 8—and so on, making a total of 25. Here 25 was balanced against 24, without any regard to the preponderance of good or bad qualities, and the reward was apportioned accordingly. (a laugh.) Thus, by this bill, the discretion of rewarding was not left with those who must best know where it was due; the system was settled and invariable. In the relations between the public and their executives servants, as in the relations of private life, many things must be taken into the account, when rewards were about to be granted, which were not susceptible of legislative interference. He therefore would in the first instance place the extent of reward in the discretion of the Crown, and next in the high official servants of the Crown. He would not attempt to confine that discretion within legislative limits. It was a vain endeavour to define those shades of merit which were almost too minute for human observation, and infinitely too nice for legislative enactment. Having stated his sentiments on the measure, he did not mean to proceed farther. In the present state of the session and of the house, it would be vain to hope for effectual resistance to the bill. He had repeatedly expected the discussion to come on, and though he did not like to sit up so late at night as some of his hon. friends, yet he had regularly attended in that hope. The bill had been put off 27 times, and it was no very pleasant thing to go 27 days without a dinner. (a laugh.) He believed the idea of the measure originated in a laudable desire to meet public opinion; but public opinion had changed, and if it were passed, it would not, he was convinced, satisfy the public mind.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, the present appeared to him to be a wise and expedient public arrangement. In the last session of Parliament an address was carried to the throne, praying for a revision of all places under Government, as well with a view to present as to future retrenchment. The object of those who were most anxious for carrying that address was, that the public officers should be restored, as nearly as possible, to the same situation as that in which they stood in 1792. With that view it was that the measure now under consideration was brought forward by his Majesty's ministers. The whole of the projected alteration was not yet carried into effect, because the excise department was still under the consideration of the Commissioners of Public Inquiry. It appeared that the actual reduction of office on the minimum salaries was 38,000l.; on the maximum, 72,000l.; and, hereafter, it was calculated that there would be a gross saving to the public of 156,000l. He was sorry that his right hon. friend (Mr. Canning) had condemned the whole of these reductions. The arguments of his right hon. friend, and of his noble friend (Lord Sidmouth), which had been alluded to in the course of the discussion, amounted to no less than this principle—that when an individual procured a situation under Government, it was no longer right that parliament should interfere with it. (hear.) With all due respect for his right hon. friend, he could not see any degree of injustice in such an interference. His right honourable friend appeared to him completely to confound the question of vested rights arising from certain stipulated grants, and those uncertain and contingent rights depending on circumstances, which must generally be, in some degree at least, contemplated by those who were raised to office. If it were an injustice to reduce the salaries of individuals placed in public offices, how much more unjust must it be to reduce officers in the army, who had purchased their commissions? Surely the same power which originally carried into effect the establishment of those offices, had a right, when circumstances demanded it, to alter and remodel the system. In the present case, he knew a very large number of persons would be affected; but no great change could possibly be made without producing a similar result. The argument of his noble friend (Lord Sidmouth) appeared to him to have no operation whatever against this measure because he could not but consider that the power of granting office during pleasure involved also the power of reducing the emolument of office. It could not be denied, with reference to the

army and navy, that, when an individual entered either service, he did so under the promise of promotion, if particular events occurred; and yet it could not be argued that the Crown did not possess a power, by exertion of which all those hopes of promotion were annihilated. That power had been repeatedly exercised, to the extent of many hundred instances. His right honourable friend said this was a partial taxation on a particular class of individuals. Let the house look to this partiality of taxation. If, as he had shown, it was in the power of the Crown to reduce these offices entirely, could it be considered a serious hardship to call on those holding them to pay a proportionate sum from their salaries which was to be applied to their advantage hereafter? No power could prevent the reduction of the salaries entirely, and there certainly was no injustice in using the same authority that could annihilate those offices for the purpose of providing at a future period for the comfort of those who now execute the duties attached to them. It should also be observed, that the greater part of these salaries were settled during the existence of the property tax, which took from them 10 per cent. and when the tax was given up, many of them were indirectly augmented by its repeal. Upon the salaries thus augmented, Government asked for only one half the amount that had been paid as income tax, and that moiety was intended for the benefit of the parties. His right hon. friend opposed the bill on the ground that it imposed a hard and partial tax. Now he could see no ground for such an allegation. On the contrary, the address of that house, if it meant any thing, meant that the salaries of persons in office ought to be reduced, and he could not conceive a milder mode in which that reduction could be effected than by taking from the salaries of the parties that which would form a provision for them in old age and infirmity. So far from this measure appearing originally to be one of hardship, he recollects, that the first motion made in the present session by the honourable member for Aberdeen was for an indiscriminate tax of 25l. (not 5l.) per cent. on the whole of the salaries of offices held under the Crown. In a case of this kind, he had experienced a difficulty which he was prepared to meet. On the one side, he was told that the reduction did not go far enough; and, on the other, if any thing at all were taken away, it was sure to create complaint. He had therefore steered a middle course; and, having had an opportunity of conversing with many of those who would be affected by the bill, he had reason to believe that the amendments had removed many of their objections.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY said, the measure now under consideration had been introduced in consequence of an address of that house to the Crown. Ministers had, in consequence, gone through an immense mass of detail, which had occupied their attention from two to three months. When he had, as it were, received instructions to prepare a bill of his kind, it would have been a base proceeding on his part if he did not act up to them. Having pursued that line of public duty which he conceived to be right—having given his concurrence to this measure, it would have been an act of insincerity if he did not come down to the house to meet any objections that might be offered to it. Ministers had been called on to produce a measure of reduction, in conformity with the principle contained in the address of the house, and when they brought forward such a measure, after a great sacrifice of time and labour, gentlemen thought fit to quarrel with the principle. Being, however, beaten on the question of principle, and the fallacy of the principle they themselves set up being proved, they then turned round and attacked the details. He thought, it would be extremely unwise, as well as unjust, if the house, after directing minister to take this course should defeat the bill on account of its details, and reject the principle which they had laid down so solemnly. What was the nature of the address to the Crown? It amounted to this—that a revision of all the salaries and emoluments under the Crown should immediately take place, and that the civil establishments should be brought back as nearly as possible to the standard of 1792. As the emoluments of office had been considerably increased by the change of currency since 1797, and as the old standard of currency had been introduced, it was thought proper to assimilate public salaries to the scale of 1792. It would be extraordinary indeed to say, that the income of an office, though that office was granted during pleasure, and was subject to all the contingencies of public affairs, should not be interfered with. Could any man contend that the moment an individual was placed in a public office that office was erected into a freehold, and that Parliament had no right to alter it in any way, so long as the party had an interest in it? Ministers were anxious to carry the principle of the address into effect in the mildest and most proper manner, consistently with the faithful accomplishment of that which the house had called on them to do; and he was perfectly convinced that, if the gentlemen who were hostile to this measure succeeded in defeating it, the competent parts of the bill—the salaries, the emoluments, and, above all, the superannuations, would be pared down on an infinitely more severe scale than was now proposed. It would be most unwise in the clerks themselves to wish for the establishment of such a principle as that laid down by the right hon. gentleman, because many facts of kindness and beneficence were now extended to them, which, if their situations were erected into freeholds,

Tuesday, March 11, 1823.

-135-

would no longer be allowed, since they would be binding on the minister of the present day, and on their successors. The most extraordinary principle he ever heard of was involved in the argument against this bill—namely, “that though you cannot modify, you may destroy.” His right hon. friend had illustrated his argument in a beautiful manner, by introducing a young man of liberal education whose views in life were clouded by the operation of this measure; but he must at once say, that if the idea of vested interest in public offices were once allowed, Parliament would no longer be capable of legislation—it would meet them, and interrupt their proceedings at every step. (*hear, hear.*) What was the situation of an officer who purchased his commission? He might be placed on half pay; his regiment might be broken; and his prospects in life might be materially affected: he had as good reason to claim a vested right as a person in a public office. But they could not argue the question on such grounds: they must look at the general expediency of the measure they must consider whether the interests of the public required it. (*hear, hear.*) He could not conceive why the public should not have the same privilege in dealing with those whom they employed, as individuals had. If a banker wished to alter the salary of his clerks, was he to be told that he had no right to do so, because the young man preferred a clerkship to fellowship? (*hear, hear.*) It was, if any one supposed that those offices were vested interests, to show that they were not. (*hear, hear.*) Was it supposed that the measure which ministers were directed to bring in should not apply to persons in office at present? If he had got up and said the bill was intended to regulate the salaries of all those who came into office hereafter, but that individuals who now held offices were to be excluded from its operations, would he not be scouted from the house? He would not have carried a single vote. Even his right honourable friend, who had this night advocated the cause of vested rights, would have voted against him. Those who opposed the bill had left the ground of principle, and the question became one of degree—had ministers carried their views to an unfair or improvident extent? The question naturally divided itself into three points—salaries, the scale of augmentation of salaries, and the act of superannuation. Now they would find no material deduction from salaries, except from those of a very high grade; and it should be remembered, that the time of the house had been very much occupied with declamations against clerks who had extensive salaries. Gentlemen said, “Spare the clerks whose salaries are small, but reduce those who proceed to their offices in curricles, and even tilburies.” (*a laugh.*) Ministers had reduced those salaries with a view to public economy, at the same time they took care that the salaries should not be unworthy of men possessing respectable characters and respectable talents. (*hear, hear.*) With respect to the scale of augmentation, it had been placed on a more rational footing than it originally was; at the same time care was taken that a liberal provision should be made for persons in the different public offices, than whom he did not know a more valuable or meritorious body of individuals. By the system as it formerly stood, the original salary was often swallowed up in the amount of augmentation. Thus there were clerks in his office whose salary was 240*l.* a year, but who by length of service received an augmentation annuity of 400*l.* a year. Thus the salary was lost in that which was meant only to be a subsidiary arrangement. The bill provided against that anomaly. With respect to superannuations, he was inclined to think that the 50th of the late King had not worked so improvidently as many gentlemen imagined: but whatever errors it contained were remedied by this measure. Every person who served the public faithfully had a right to a superannuation allowance, and that allowance was provided under the present bill. The honourable member for Montrose said—“Why not give the clerks the full amount of salary, and let them provide for themselves like persons in the private walks of life?” So far as the public money was concerned, it was undoubtedly as broad as it was long; but it was not so with respect to the individual, for he would contend that there was a moral advantage in making the individual understand that he was not to look to the public for support, but that he must, by his own temperate habits and moderate conduct, make an effort for his comfort in old age. (*hear, hear.*) It had been recommended that, in cases of dismissal, the person turned away should receive back the capital which he paid towards the superannuation fund. Of course it would not be contended, that a man discharged for any flagrant offence ought to be so treated; but, when it was found expedient to remove an individual on account of some minor error, he thought it would be fair to give him back the capital he had subscribed. Perhaps his right hon. friend would agree to insert a clause for that purpose. If he did, it would probably lead the right hon. gent. (Mr. Canning) to support the measure. He should be guilty of very great insincerity if he said that ministers would have brought in this measure, had it not been for the address; but having obeyed the injunctions of the hon. gentlemen opposite, he hoped they would not now oppose the progress of the bill. It would be a most extraordinary proceeding, if, having agreed to the general principle of the measure, they now attempted to defeat it in detail. The saving was 100,000*l.* a year; but he could assure them, that the amount of saving should never

induce him to do an act of injustice. The saving ought, however, to have some weight with those who had argued on the importance of a trifling reduction in the Admiralty and Post-office. (*hear.*)

Mr. CALCRAFT explained. He had received no information from any person in office.

Mr. HUME agreed with the noble lord that the right honourable gentleman's (Mr. Canning's) speech was a most extraordinary one. If the principle was good for any thing, it went so far as, that after a young man entered once into office, no change could be made that should affect him. Although the right honourable gentleman could clothe any proposition in imposing language, he was much mistaken if he supposed that his arguments on the present occasion had carried conviction. Any thing so monstrous in principle, and so absurd in practice, he had never heard. He was sorry the right honourable gentleman had left the house. He had no right he (Mr. Hume) thought to leave the house. (*a laugh.*) After having made a speech so much at variance with sound principle and against a measure introduced at the express request of the house, he ought not to have left the house so abruptly. At any rate, he would have no reason to complain of remarks made after he had left the house. He (Mr. Hume) never since he had a seat in that house, heard a more constitutional and consistent address than had just been made by the noble marquis. He agreed with the noble marquis, as to offices held under the Crown, the limitations of vested interests and situations held during pleasure. Upon re-examination, he agreed that the 50th of the late King was not so bad as some very bad cases might lead to suppose. That showed the necessity of preventing extreme cases of abuse. He and others had stated very flagrant cases of abuse in that house. They were right as to these cases, but they had been rather strong in their general inferences. Instead of thinking that this bill went too far, he thought it did not go far enough. When the address of that house had gone up to the throne, not only the house, but the country had expected that a very great reduction would be made. The right hon. gent. (Mr. Canning) was now against all reduction, and for continuing every single shilling that happened to have been once given. He would put it now to the right hon. gentleman opposite (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) whether he had not better dismiss this bill and introduce another to reduce salaries at once, according to the value of the currency. Let the value for the last four years be taken as the standard. He did not agree with the honourable member for Essex, that the difference was 40 per cent.; but the difference was so great, as to make a very considerable reduction a measure of pure justice.

Mr. MARRYAT wished that it should be optional to contribute to the superannuation fund, and that widows and children should have the benefit of it. The example of East India superannuations ought to be followed.

The report was then brought up.

Mr. CALCRAFT moved a clause, making the contribution optional to all who held office previously to the passing of the act.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY said, that in case of any one dying, the capital contributed reverted to his executors. A clause would be introduced to extend this provision equally in all cases, except where persons were dismissed for crying abuse. It would be understood, if any person did not contribute his proportion, the public would not contribute theirs; and the consequence would be, that he would die on their hands, or he must have what he failed to establish a claim to. To contribute was a degree of providence which was both proper and necessary. Where it was neglected by one, he became dependent on charity for not sending him forth to die in the streets; but to extend this charity would be gross injustice to others, and involve an immoral principle.

Mr. CALCRAFT would, in consequence of the understanding that a clause to the effect mentioned by the noble lord would be introduced, withdraw his clause.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time on Monday.

In the course of the late week, no less than 23 couples, all of the better classes of society, the ladies attended by their brothers, mothers, or other friends in years, arrived in Dublin, on matrimonial excursions. One Minister received, on Tuesday last, a present of twenty guineas, and two other presents of large amount, for uniting these couples. The obnoxious provisions of the Marriage Act, not extending to Ireland, that country may be termed, until its repeal, “The land of Marriage.”

#### DEATH.

At Richmond Barrack, Dublin, on the 14th of August, at the quarter of Lieutenant Colonel Watson, aged 13 years, Emily Watson, eldest Daughter of Major A. J. Watson, of the 26th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry.

**A Woman's Love.**

A woman's love, deep in the heart,  
Is like the violet flower,  
That lifts its modest head apart  
In some sequester'd bower;  
And blest is he who finds that bloom,  
Who sips its gentle sweets;  
He heeds not life's oppressive gloom,  
Nor all the care he meets!

A woman's love is like the spring  
Amid the wild alone.  
A burning wild, o'er which the wing  
Of cloud is seldom thrown;  
And blest is he who meets that fount  
Beneath the sultry day;  
How gladly shall his spirits mount!  
How pleasant be his way!

A woman's love is like the rock  
That every tempest braves.  
And stands secure amid the shock,  
Of ocean's widest waves;  
And blest is he to whom repose  
Within its shade is given;

The world, with all its cares and woes,  
Seems less like earth than heaven.

**Accidents and Offences.**

**Dreadful Accident from Furious Driving.**—On Monday morning (Sept. 16) the Tally-ho Woolwich opposition coach,—with that unparable spirit of rivalry, which has proved fatal to so many lives, and in positive defiance of a specific Act of Parliament, had the temerity to pass down Blackheath-hill at full speed. The coach in its progress was observed to acquire an undulating motion, and on turning round the corner at the bottom of the hill, the coach was upset with a tremendous crash, and with such violence that the side was driven in and broken to pieces. There were fifteen passengers, four inside and eleven outside; the former have received more injury than the latter. Major McCloud, a very fine young man, lies without hope of recovery; not a feature in his face can be discerned but his eyes; and none of the passengers escaped without broken bones. Several, indeed, have suffered so severely that their friends despair of their surviving the injuries they have sustained. Most of the passengers were conveyed back to Woolwich; some on the shoulders of men, and some in caravans; and were immediately attended by four surgeons from the Hospital. Too much praise cannot be given to these gentlemen for their prompt assistance; and if human exertions can prevail, we may expect as favourable a result as the dreadful situation of the sufferers will admit.—The system of furious driving must be suppressed; and it behoves every man to put in force the enactments of that sanitary Act, which has received the sanction, not only of the Legislature, but of every friend to humanity; as, exclusive of the fatality which so frequently befalls the passengers, the poor animals, thus goaded on by torture, are daily seen to drop dead on the road, to the disgrace of the inhuman brutes who urge them to destruction.—A correspondent, alluding to the above fatal accident, calls the public attention to a circumstance very essential to the security of the passengers in the City and New Roads: "There are," he says, "above 40 stage coaches which pass four times daily from Paddington to the Bank of England and back; and as they are calculated to carry six inside passengers, and seven outside beside the driver, it may be inferred that nearly 4,000 persons have recourse to them daily; it has till lately been the practice for each coach to carry a boy, whose duty it was to let the passengers in and out; and now that, from the great competition, such a measure of security has become more than ever necessary, these boys are dismissed, and the driver is constantly obliged to resign his reins to attend to the inside passengers, very few of them riding the whole distance: thus rendering the probability of accident much greater than whilst he was under no necessity for leaving the box, and instances have occurred of fatal results from such a desertion of his proper station. The very serious consequences which may arise from this species of economy cannot have been adverted to by the coach proprietors, and the public will do well to abstain from having recourse to these conveyances whilst so desirable a protection is withheld."

**A Dreadful Accident.**—A dreadful accident occurred on Thursday last, through the breaking of the fore axle-tree of one of the Gravesend coaches, just at the end of the Brent, near Dartford. The coachman and passengers were thrown off, and an elderly gentleman, named Bryan, residing at Swanscombe had the flesh literally torn from his right thigh

and leg. He was conveyed to the house of Mr. Hurst, a surgeon, at Dartford, where it was found necessary to amputate the limb above the knee, and we are happy to say he is doing as well as can be expected. To add to the affliction of Mr. B., his wife, who had been some time ill, has died since the accident that happened to her husband, but she had not the pain of learning that distressing occurrence. It is singular, a gentleman who was on the coach when it broke down, went to London by another, and the axle-tree of that also broke, just as the coach was entering the inn-yard, but fortunately without doing any injury to the passengers.

One of the Bristol stage-coaches was overturned on Wednesday last, between that city and Bath, by which accident a passenger of the name of Hambleton was unfortunately killed upon the spot.

Thursday morning last, a fatal accident befel Miss Leyland, an elderly maiden lady, residing at Islington near Manchester. She was upon a visit at the house of Mr. Hampson, of Ratcliffe, and was proceeding thence in a cart to pay a visit to the Rev. Thomas Parkinson, of Radcliffe, when the wheel unfortunately came in contact with that of another cart, belonging to Mr. Bealey, the bleacher; in consequence of which the vehicle in which Miss Leyland rode was overturned, and she was killed upon the spot.

**Melancholy Accident.**—On Tuesday morning nine young men, bookbinders, in the employ of Mr. Camp, Barbican, agreed to make a holiday, and clubbed two shillings a-piece for the purpose of hiring a boat, the rest of the money to be spent. They proceeded to Westminster-bridge, where they hired a six-oared cutter; and without a waterman they rowed to Kew, where they dined and spent the day. On their return in the evening about dusk, when between the Red House and the Eagle, one of the party, named Thomas Beau, stood up rather hastily, for the purpose of relieving one of his companions at the oar, and he fell head foremost into the river; Thomas Buchan, who sat next him, in his endeavours to save him, fell in likewise; Richard Marks, another of the party, instantly stripped of his coat and jumped in to save them, when they grappled him hard, and the three sank to rise no more alive. The survivors rowed instantly to the Red House, where they gave an alarm, the drags were protracted without delay, and several boats went to the spot; the bodies were dragged for till past 12 o'clock, but without success. Beau was about 24 years of age, and a widower with one child; Buchan was a single young man; and Marks has left a wife and two children to lament his loss.—[Surely this melancholy event will act deeply upon the minds of those thoughtless and self-willed young men, who are now to be seen almost daily upon the water, without the least ability to manage a boat, and the almost certain consequence of their ignorance terminating in the same awful manner. It would be a prudent regulation, and the means of saving many lives in the course of a year, if the persons who let out boats were to make it a part of their contract, that an experienced waterman should invariably accompany the craft.]

On Thursday last, the daughter of Mr. Smith, farmer, at Hever, during the absence of her parents, drank a considerable quantity of hollands out of a bottle, which caused her death. It appears that the child had complained of a pain in the stomach, and her mother had given her a small quantity of hollands, which relieved her, and placed the bottle on some drawers, the child remaining in bed. It is supposed that, feeling a return of the pain, she got out, and drank near a pint and a half, which occasioned the dreadful catastrophe. An eminent medical gentleman in the neighbourhood was called in, but too late.

**Caution to Servants.**—A few days ago two women introduced themselves into the house of a gentleman in Leeds, under the pretext of selling small wares, one of whom, who had a young child with her, exhibited to the female servant some slight-of-hand tricks, which raised in the mind of the poor girl an apprehension that she was possessed of some supernatural power, and which induced her to deliver to this pretended sorceress the most valuable part of her wearing apparel, receiving, at the same time, a promise that it should be returned to her in a few days, with some charm performed upon it. The impression which the supposed supernatural powers of this wretch made upon the young woman was so great, that it was some days before she ventured to disclose what had happened; and she declared to her master, that she was so much afraid of the woman, that she could have given every thing she had in the world to get rid of her. The same woman appears to have obtained other property, from different persons, by similar absurd pretences.

**Robbery.**—As a gentleman was crossing Moorfields, near the London Institution, a few evenings since, he was violently assaulted by two men armed with bludgeons, who knocked him down and rifled his pockets of a sovereign. The fellows were interrupted by a person passing, or the consequences might have been serious, as great cruelty and violence were resorted to in the attack.—*Weekly Messenger*, Sept. 22.

# ASiATIC DEPARTMENT.

— 137 —

## Sycophancy and Presumption.

### JOHN BULL'S ATTEMPTS TO PROSTITUTE THE CHARACTER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

We observe with sorrow and regret the pernicious efforts making by JOHN BULL and his Correspondents, to bring the Government of this country into odium and contempt. It is not surprising, that a knot of nameless writers, whose least detestable motive is selfishness, and most honourable profession mere servility, should wish to increase the sale and raise the character of their unprincipled labours by placing them under the patronage of the most powerful men in the country. These writers are wise in their generation; but surely never was any Government before so unfortunate, as to be held up to the world as standing in need of such a disreputable publication for its friend and Protector! The Editor of JOHN BULL inserts a letter at the head of his Correspondence addressing himself thus: "You, Sir, are the *only* Editor here, who has had *public spirit and manliness enough to stand forward* when the Government of the country was publicly assailed, &c. &c. &c." Was there ever such a piece of impudent presumption, and audacious insolence as this? JOHN BULL only has *manliness enough to stand forward* as the Champion of the Government! JOHN BULL is the only Paper which the Government in its day of distress and tribulation can find to stand forward as its champion! And what is this self-elected Champion of the Government which alone has the *manliness to stand forward in its defence*? A Paper which has been nursed into existence by personal hatred to one individual now banished to England:—a Paper which has fed on scurrility till it has become odious to the Indian Public, whether in or out of the Service; and which now wishes to drag itself into favor by laying hold of the skirts of the Government, and pretending to be its defender. This can only be regarded as an attempt to prostitute the character of the highest authorities for the selfish purpose of supporting an unpopular Newspaper; an attempt which the Gentlemen in the Company's Service, whose own honour is involved, cannot fail to view with indignation. We sincerely hope the Indian Public, for its own honour, will speedily shake off this Vampire, which strives to prolong its foul existence by sucking out the heart's blood of the character of the British Government in this country, while it lulls its victim asleep by fawning servility. It is evident that such disgraceful attempts must soon compel the Government to renounce publicly the imputation of countenancing such a paper, and to rebuke the impudent sycophancy that would fix upon it such a stigma. For it must see plainly that it cannot avoid sharing in the disgrace of its self-elected Champion, as a late instance will clearly illustrate.

The late Editor of this Paper suggested, that Correspondence to the JOURNAL might be sent under cover to the care of third persons if a direct address should be deemed unsafe. JOHN BULL could not allow this to pass without a violent tirade against Mr. Buckingham: the Friends of the latter had surely as good a right to defend his conduct as JOHN BULL had to attack it; and if the Government had been unwilling to see the point discussed at all, they would naturally have forbidden the attack, after the example of Lord Hastings, who had too just a sense of honour to wish to see a man assaulted while his hands and those of his friends were tied up so that they could not do any thing in his defence. Any Friend of Mr. Buckingham had therefore a good right to bring forward what appeared to them a justification of his conduct. With this view it appears, a Correspondent quoted an Extract from General Orders and without offering any opinion on it himself asked JOHN BULL to explain it. We reprint a portion of his Letter:—

Extract from General Orders, dated the 8th of June last, given in the JOURNAL for that month at p. 573.—After severely condemning the practice of Military Officers representing their professional grievances through the Press, it concludes thus:—"The Commander in Chief, therefore, in the strictest manner, prohibits Officers from sending to the News Papers any such Anonymous Representations as above described. Should a Letter of that nature henceforth be traced to any Officer (and MEANS will be taken to make the discovery ALMOST INEVITABLE)

the Commander in Chief will immediately submit to the Governor General in Council, the necessity of suspending the Individual from Duty and Pay, while a solicitation is made to the Honorable Court, for his entire removal from the Service." Now I ask JOHN BULL—and all his co-worshippers of Arbitrary Power, who are ready to act as lick-spittles to the powers that be, to say, candidly, what "MEANS" are here alluded to—whereby letters shall be "traced to any Officer with such extraordinary certainty, that discovery is almost inevitable?" Let the BULL be wary as to what answer he gives, either Editorially, or by a Correspondent; for more importance will be attached to it, than to a common Newspaper paragraph from the pen of such an insignificant Editor, or a portion of un-official Correspondence. The Bengal Army, let him recollect, will not be guiled by clerical sophistry, nor demi-official evasion."

JOHN BULL calls this an atrocious attempt to connect the army with the Press! Now, who is really guilty of such attempts? JOHN BULL himself, who lately published a letter signed AN OFFICER AT BARRACKPORE, pretending to give the sentiments of the whole Army, and the Editor in a Note expresses how much pleasure he has in giving it insertion, adding that he has no doubt it contains the opinions of the Officers throughout the service, and wishes such avowals of the sentiments of the Army had been made earlier! He in fact wishes to connect the Army with the cause of the JOHN BULL Press, and rejoices at such letters when they forward the interests of that Concern; but when a letter expressing sentiments unfavourable to the BULL is inserted by us, it is mutinous, infamous and atrocious! Can any thing be so absurd as this? But we shall give JOHN BULL's answer to the important question so plainly put to him, in his own words:—

Not only is the insertion of this Letter a decided opposition to the Government, but it holds out an encouragement to military-men to the disobedience of a positive order. Independant of the Insult offered to the Commander in Chief, and which it is almost impossible could have been attempted by a Bengal Officer, it is evidently written with the view of inflaming the minds of the Officers of the Bengal Army. When things have arrived at such a pitch as this, it is time indeed for all who value the security which we at present enjoy, in our lives, our liberties and our property, to boldly step forward in defence of them; for assuredly nothing can more tend to place them in peril, than the prevalence of such atrocious attempts to connect in any way the Army with the Press. The danger arising from such interference, even in England, would be great; but in this country, it would be certain destruction. The officers of the Bengal Army, in that capacity, have but one duty to perform to the Government, and that is simple obedience. We are satisfied from the character which that Army has always maintained, that this duty will be paramount in their estimation; we do not believe that any Officer ever penned that infamous Letter; its appearance under such a signature is a gross Libel on the Army, and we trust some steps will be taken to relieve it from the imputation of having among its Members, one officer, so lost to all sense of what he owes to his king, his country and his oath, as calmly to sow the seeds of disaffection and disobedience—We again say, that such conduct as has been pursued in the CALCUTTA JOURNAL; in decidedly opposing the legal authority and Government of the country;—in calling upon those "who can without sacrificing their prospects and peace to raise their voices where necessary for the public good" in opposition to the Government,—in threatening the Governor General with "answering"—"at this Peril at the Bar of the Supreme Court,"—and finally in publishing *Military Correspondence* in direct opposition to the orders of Government, correspondence evidently calculated to oppose the Army to its Commanding Officer;—is raising the standard of rebellion; and if not checked cannot fail of producing the most disastrous consequence."

"The call upon us to explain the measures which may be adopted to discover the authors of such Letters, is too silly to require notice; but we protest against the mischievous introduction of the Bengal Army into the discussions of a newspaper."

Such is JOHN BULL's answer, which we may justly compare to that received by JUNIUS, described in the following extract:—

"JUNIUS and many others say (and I fancy they speak the sense of the nation), that the duke of Grafton imposes upon his Sovereign, betrays his connections, persecutes the man who was his friend, idly irritates the colonies, wickedly alienates their affections from their mother country, invades the liberties of the people, abuses the prerogative of the crown, and has actually subverted the constitution: and when JUNIUS civilly asks the reason of all this—Sir (says he) you're a rascal.

## Calcutta Journal.—Vol. II.—No. 60.

—138—

"Now, Mr. Woodfall, I shall make but one reflection, and that I shall borrow from sir John Brute:—"This may be a very good answer for aught I know at cross-purposes, but it is a damned whimsical one to a people in our circumstances."

To give a few specimens of the abuse JOHN BULL pours out against us, instead of facts and arguments: When we copy an entire article from the EDINBURGH REVIEW, mentioning at the head of it, the work from which it is taken, we are accused of "garbling" and "duplicity"; when we copy a Law Report from a co-temporary we are accused of taking it "from the pen of the losing party;" and "encouraging, every falsehood and mis-statement which either disappointed, cunning, or reproved knavery can invent;" the Letters of Correspondents which they feel necessary to counteract the mis-representations of the BULL, are said to proceed from a LOW, VILE, SORDID, OBSCURE, ILLIBERAL and MERCENARY faction; from that the Tauric Orator rises to a MUMPING, MOTLEY, "mob Paper," and finishes the climax with "a Corps of CATERWAULERS!" What must that cause be, which requires such a mode of defence? Do the little band of maligners, hope to win favour in the eyes of the Public by adopting the language of Billingsgate?

### Blundering Commissioner.

Our Reply to \*\*\*\*\*'s Letter in yesterday's JOHN BULL, need not be a long nor a labored one, to expose his mis-statements. He says:—"The present Editor now publishes fictitious Reports of Cases, for no other purpose, as I can conceive, than of creating mischief, and setting, if possible, the Commissioners and Magistrates by the ears."

The public will judge, whether we can fairly be charged with the mischievous purpose, attributed to us in the above extract, by referring to the pages of the JOURNAL, since the 17th of last month: and to enable them to do so the more readily, we shall here enumerate the number of Letters, or Reports, which have appeared in its pages from that day to this. In all, then, there are three Letters to the JOURNAL, and three Selections from the HURKARU. The two first, in order of date, relate to the case of HASLEBY AND CO. versus CAPTAIN CONWAY; the next three are Selections from the HURKARU; one, is the case of RAM-NARAIN GHOSH versus PALMER, another of FLEMING versus PALMER, and the third, of BEBEE NANCY versus BEBEE JOHANNA AND ANOTHER: and the remaining one, is the case of J. DAVID versus S. M. SIMONS, communicated in a Letter to the JOURNAL. Are these fabricated cases? If they are not, then the charge against us is false.—We have no wish to bring the Commissioners and the Magistrates into that sort of close contact, so elegantly expressed by the BULL's Correspondent. He next states, that—

"In the case alluded to in the JOURNAL of yesterday, any person attending for the purpose of giving a report of that case, must have simply stated that the Plaintiff was nonsuited; because it was impossible for any individual to know the Commissioner's reasons for his decision; or indeed, to do more than form a conjecture, from the questions put to the witnesses; and which went no further than to ascertain whether the Defendant had the means of complying with the injunctions of the Magistrates; to me it appeared that the Plaintiff was nonsuited because she did not even allude, far less prove, that the Defendants, her two daughters, had the present means of fulfilling the order of the Magistrates, and she left the Court under the understanding that she could enforce the order whenever she was able to substantiate the power on the part of the Defendants, to comply with it."

"The Journal farther states that the Plaintiff was a very old woman: to my vision she was not so, but one perfectly capable of maintaining herself by service, for 15 or 20 years to come; not by that sort of service however to which she had, for a price, consigned her unfortunate daughters, and if the Defendants were her daughters, which they appeared to be, it was physically impossible that she could be very old."

This, we believe, relates to the case of BEBEE NANCY versus BEBEE JOHANNA AND ANOTHER: and as it was copied from the HURKARU, the Editor of that Paper will, no doubt, establish the correctness of his report.

But, it is truly ridiculous to observe, how this learned Correspondent of the BULL—whether he be a Commissioner or a

Commissioner's understrapper, we care not—goes on blundering. In the fury of his temper, he abuses us, having a Note of the Editor of the HURKARU lying before him, thus:—

"The Editor of the JOURNAL, from a conviction, that a sale of falsehood, scandal and libel, not much to the credit of the Indian community, has been the chief means of rearing and supporting that "Nobleman like establishment" which he now so feelingly deplores the destruction of, affects to lament the prejudice which has gone abroad, that his reports of cases in the Court of Requests have been made with the view of bringing the Officers and decisions of that Court into contempt; but if there had been any other object in view, how does it happen, that holding up as he so often has done, the advantage of giving these decisions to the public, neither he, nor his predecessor, ever sent a reporter to that Court, to give the decisions correctly, but took one and all of the cases which have filled his pages, from the pen of the disappointed and losing party; a system of reporting which every man of honor and honesty, or who had either character to gain or to lose, would at once have despised and discouraged—but he found it excite attention and sell, the more gross and libellous, the more welcome, and therefore not only received, but encouraged such communications.

This volley of scurrilous jargon, was poured out against us for the following Note, mentioned above, and which was appended to the case of BEBEE NANCY by the Editor of the HURKARU:—

"Note—A charge has been industriously propagated, that our sole aim in reporting the decisions of this Court, is to bring the Administration of Justice into contempt. We deny this, and declare that we shall not be deterred by any threats from following the course we have hitherto adopted, and bringing similar cases under the notice of our readers. It affords us much pleasure to be enabled to state, that in all the cases which came before the Gentleman, who decided the above, he displayed the greatest patience and urbanity in examining the Native Witnesses, and used every exertion to obtain a thorough knowledge of its merits.—Ed."

Now comes the Correspondent's triumphant concluding sentence, to his above quoted blundering Paragraph. He is so overjoyed at the discovery, he thinks, he has made to our disprangement, that he cannot help giving full expression to his joy but by penning four notes of exclamation:—

"If the Editors of the JOURNAL had any other object in view than I have imputed to them, how does it happen that the present one no longer ago than the 17th of Feb. the very day he commenced his own "unshackled," I might say, unprincipled labours, wrote a letter to himself under the signature of "An Enquirer," in which he speaks of the disgust he feels in attending that Court, and in the midst of very sapient questions, put by himself to himself!!!!; asks himself what quantum of arbitrary punishment ought to be inflicted by a judge on a Plaintiff who brings an action and does not succeed in it, beyond paying the whole costs of suit; a very inadequate one in the opinion of the Editor;—But even this question the Journalist could not put to himself without, at the same time, insinuating that the Commissioner was instrumental in bringing the action against him.

In respect to the letter signed AN INQUIRER, in the JOURNAL of the 17th of February, the following unvarnished statement of facts will shew, how the Commissioner,—or the Commissioner's Clerk, or whoever he be who wrote the letter signed \*\*\*\*\* in yesterday's BULL—"in the plenitude of his zeal" to fix a stigma upon us, makes himself look ridiculous. On the 14th of last month, we wrote the letter in question; it was composed, or put in type, and printed on the 16th, and appeared in the JOURNAL, which was issued on the morning of the following day: now, we did not accept of the situation of Editor to this Paper, before the afternoon of the 17th of that month. How, then, does his argument stand? And does not this short development of facts, cause the finger of ridicule to turn round towards the Commissioner, which he so boldly attempted to point towards us?

#### CALCUTTA BAZAR RATES, MARCH 10, 1823.

	BUY...SELL
Remittable Loans, .....	Rs. 36 8 20 8
Unremittable ditto, .....	8 0 7 0
Bills of Exchange on the Court of Directors, for 18 Months, dated 30th of April 1822, .....	26 0 25 0
Bank Shares, .....	6200 0 6000 0
Spanish Dollars, per 100, .....	207 0 206 0
Notes of Good Houses, for 6 Months, bearing Interest, at 5 per cent.	
Government Bills, Discount, .....	at 3-8 per cent.
Loans on Deposit of Company's Paper, for 1 to 3 months, at 3-8 per cent.	

Tuesday. March 11, 1823.

—139—

### A New Libel.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,  
Look sharp: Does not the Paragraph published in the BULL of yesterday, announcing an additional Subscriber to that Paper, of forty years standing in the Company's Service, with the following remarks, constitute a gross and serious libel, and worthy of consideration? The sage old gentleman, and FREQUENT READER, it would appear, was hitherto accustomed to peruse the BULL, gratis, and I should like to ascertain whether he met with a similar indulgence in regard to the perusal of the JOURNAL; for I cannot reconcile to myself that an Officer of forty years standing could be capable of propagating injurious opinions without having the materials to hear him out. So opposite indeed are my sentiments from that which he entertains, that I do not hesitate to pronounce the famous SEMPRONIUS, the more famous FRIEND TO BANKES, the artful Libeller NIKE, and other Anonymous Scribblers in the BULL, who for the last 8 Months have taken such unseared pains to injure Mr. Buckingham, and to bring him into disesteem, as characters disgraceful to the country which gave them birth.

Your obedient Servant,

March 9, 1823.

NO FLATTERER.

### Superintending Surgeons.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,  
I see the learned GRYPHUS PES (for the well chosen name surely displays his a-ru-dition) has got an auxiliary in your JOURNAL of yesterday, under the signature of RALPH. This Gentleman's wit is better than his arguments. I have laughed at his jokes, but his reasoning is founded on a misconception of the precise case in dispute.

He speaks of "GRYP's decisive proof," that the situation of Superintending Surgeon is a rank like that of Major or Lieutenant-Colonel, viz. "THE INCREASE OF PENSION ATTACHED THERETO." Here GRYP has misled him; for the difference in this point of pension is precisely one of the proofs, (as CANDIDUS has already stated), that they are not the same sort of thing. The Officer who has served his time may retire on Major's pension the very next day after he obtains it; but the Surgeon who is appointed a Superintending Surgeon may toil in that "invidious office" for four years and three quarters, and yet he will be entitled to no increase of pension whatever.

RALPH's second reason, brought in addition to "GRYP's decisive proof," that the situation cannot be a Staff Appointment, is, that we have never seen it given as the reward of superior merit. Now this conclusion, even if there were no such instance, scarcely follows from his premises. It is quite as reasonable to conclude with me, that the eminent skill and ability in their profession, which distinguishes almost all the Medical Establishment of Bengal, has very rarely left any other ground of preference to the recommending Board but that of Seniority.

RALPH supposes what he deems a parallel case of the Commandant of a Provincial Battalion, a Barrack Master, or a Deputy Pay Master wishing to retain his place after promotion, to a majority; but the instance is not in point. Suppose that the Senior Captain, of a Regiment were in one of these situations, and were told that he could not hold his appointment after promotion; but that if he chose to give up a step he might remain where he was as Captain, and the second Captain should be promoted in his room. This would be a parallel case; and would no doubt seem very grievous to the hungry expectant who was gaping for the Pay Mastership. But then (to balance this), it would appear a most judicious measure to the second Captain: and the Regiment at large would get a step equally in either case.

March 7.

SIDROPHEL.

### Military Widow's Fund.

To the Editor of the Journal

SIR,  
It may relieve "THE WIDOW'S FRIEND" in Oude, who is so grievously alarmed at the "mutilation," and "amputation," and what not of four "good old rules" of that "most excellent institution," the Military Widow's Fund, to learn that his brethren at the Presidency entertain no fear of such sad consequences. Indeed I would hope that a little further enquiry and reflection on the subject will tranquillize even him.

The rule by which the Committee of Managers or Directors is annually elected by the whole body of Members, (those absent from the Presidency voting, if they choose, by Proxy,) is not an old Rule, however good. It was one of the new Rules proposed by the late President and his colleagues in the year 1821. Before that the Regulation was for all vacancies in the Committee to be filled up by the other Managers.

At the general meeting in January, at which I was present, the Directors recommended a slight modification of this Rule, (for it is no more) viz. that while the Directors should one and all continue to be chosen as at present—they should be allowed to choose their own President or Chairman, according to the usage which has always prevailed in the Orphan Society. They pointed out several reasons for this alteration: some of them are so obvious that they will readily occur to any person. Every one present admitted that the change was desirable; one Gentleman only objected to it, and that merely because some persons in the Upper Provinces might take umbrage at the change; for he distinctly admitted that it would be an improvement.

I should observe that the President for this year was elected by the meeting at large, before this Rule was passed, and he had been chosen in December by a very full general meeting, which was called for the express purpose of electing a successor to Mr. Young on his departure for England. The new Rule may conduce greatly to ease in the despatch of business and to the convenience of the Directors; but how it "elevates them" I do not comprehend. This "self arrogated licence," as THE WIDOW'S FRIEND politely terms it, seems to be on a par with the license of a Jury to choose their own Foreman. Is this usage preserved for the purpose of their "electing and elevating themselves?"

If "THE WIDOW'S FRIEND" is a Member of the Fund, and is still dissatisfied with the conduct of the Directors, he may at the next Annual Election send down his Proxy, and exhort his friends to do the same, for any others in whom he has more confidence. It may be worth however to mention that we in Calcutta know that it is found difficult to fill situations in the management of the Orphan and Widow's Fund with Members who are willing to attend the frequent Meetings which are required, and to take a full share in the other duties which these Offices require. We could therefore wish any Residents in Oude who disapprove of arrangements, for which perhaps they may not see the reason, first to apply for explanation to the Secretary of the Fund or to some well informed friend at the Presidency, before they arraign the Officers who are managing our Common Fund as assuming a "self-arrogated licence," or the like.

Such a licence of pen on the part of an unknown anonymous writer towards persons whose names are known to the whole army is not very civil, nor is any advantage that I can imagine attained by this rudeness. If the Office of Director is valuable to any one as a mark of the confidence reposed in him by his brother Officers,—it is not likely that he will do any thing to lose their good opinion, before whom the accounts of the Committee must be laid at the end of the year, since without their continued confidence he will not be re-elected. And for any real abuse or apprehended mismanagement, the 37th Rule secures a regular, easy, and prompt remedy, provided only that any twelve Members of the Fund shall think it advisable to resort to it,

A MEMBER AT THE PRESIDENCY.

—140—

## Translation of a Native Letter.

*To Mr. Buckingham,*

Sir,

Your fame is so widely spread throughout the Soobas of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, that many poor people\* hope that by representing to you the particulars of their distresses, they may reach the ears of the Governor General and of his Council. Having seen the distresses of the poor\* and the *Birtie-bhogies*, (rent-free land-holders) I have long felt an inclination to bring them to the knowledge of the Governor General in Council; but I am poor and have no protectors in Calcutta, consequently I cannot get admittance to those Gentlemen of sublime dignity, to disclose them. I hope, however, through your assistance to accomplish my long-cherished charitable purpose. Be kind enough towards the poor Inhabitants of the Zillahs as to apprise the Governor General and his Council of the following two subjects, by giving them publicity in your JOURNAL.

First, according to Regulation 40th of the year 1793, Moonsufs are appointed in all the Chowkies of Zillahs, and according to Regulation 49th, paragraph 16th and article 2d, Vakeels are nominated in the Moonsuf-Courts, and Sunuds are given to them. Vakeels, when cases are tried, get a per-centge for their trouble, from their respective Clients; and therefore these Vakeels connect themselves with designing men as Clients and prosecute false and groundless demands before the Moonsuf, and gain largely by their commission or per-centge, for their trouble. Such Vakeels sometimes conspire with the Moonsufs to oppress the poor. I therefore beg to submit, that if the per-centge now received by these Vakeels, be carried to the Public Purse, and fixed salaries allowed them, they would not then feel any interest to prosecute false suits before the Moonsufs, and no connection will also then be formed between the Moonsufs and Vakeels. This would do great good to the poor Inhabitants of Zillahs.

Second: the Honorable Company has made many Regulations respecting the rent-free-lands, directing that neither Zemindars, Talookdars, Ezrads, nor Gomashtas, should have any sort of claim against these lands; but the Talookdars violate these Regulations; for they take possession of the lands of these Birtie-bhogies, whom they find in reduced circumstances, and claim to themselves by the produce of these lands; and to secure their possession, they gradually harass the Birtie-bhogies with Law Suits. The Birtie-bhogies being thus dispossessed of the rent-free-lands, the gifts of the Honorable Company. My complaint therefore is this:—In the year 1791, of the Christian era, the resident of Zillah Burdwan, Mr. Meswer made good rules for judging the cases relative to the rent-free-lands. His manner was this:—He received the complaints of the Birtie-bhogies by petitions written on common paper without any stamps, and in the Bengalee language; and then having written his Decrees on the back of the petitions, he returned them as Hookumnamahs into the hands of the complainants. If the Defendants did not obey the Hookumnamah, he, on the Birtie-bhogie's again petitioning him, used to send Chupraces, and having had the Defendants brought before him, and seen the Deeds, by which the Birtie-bhogies possessed the lands, he inflicted corporal punishment upon the Zemindars, and fined them also; which fines he gave to the complaining Birtie-bhogies. Such was the state of the Court in the time of Mr. Meswer: and the gifts of the Honorable Company, the rent-free lands, were in full possession of the Birtie-bhogies. Now even such rent-free-lands of the poor Birtie-bhogies, as they possess either from the times of Kings, or by deeds of gift sanctified by the Public Officers of the Honorable Company, are seized upon. The Talookdars, however, cannot take the rent-free-lands of the rich Birtie-bhogies.

Have the goodness to publish the above communication, that the Governor General and his Council may be made ac-

quainted with the subject, and issue their commands; for it will contribute much to the good of their poor subjects the Britie-Bhogies of Zillahs; and their poor subjects will make themselves happy by constantly praying for your prosperity. Written by me.

RAMSOONDER SANE, Chowdry.

Vakeel of the Moonsuf-Court of Chunderkona: a Chowky belonging to the Zillah Hoogly, Dated in the year 1823 of the Christian, and 1229 of the Bengalee era.—Finis.

## Political Expediency.

*To the Editor of the Journal.*

Sir,

Perhaps some of your numerous Correspondents will be able to furnish a reply to the following Queries:—

Whether, or not, the Tauric Editor has rendered himself obnoxious by giving publication to certain insinuations and reflections tending to excite disaffection and strife, in a body of men enjoying like himself the protection of the Supreme Government? Whether it is not as much a matter of Political Expediency or more so on the present occasion, as in the case of the Scotch Divine to call down the interposition of Government, to prevent such a course of things? If the sapient Editor be permitted to carry his Paper to such a pitch of abuse with impunity, may he not provoke acts of violence inconsistent with decency and good order.

Yours,

INDICUS

## Candidus's Reply to Gryphius.

*To the Editor of the Journal.*

Sir,

CANDIDUS may have a good cause; but I do not approve his PERORATION.\* Why suspect GRYPHIUS PES of making an unnecessary, or invidious clamour? If the doctrine maintained be in itself just, what clamour can do it any injury? if the right CANDIDUS claims, be not disgraceful to ask for, why presume the Queries of GRYPHIUS to be put, for an improper purpose? and above all, why does he *from mere suspicion*, sneer at a gentleman who in all probability did NOT write the article; or if he did, *preserving due decorum*, abstained from every thing "like personality." CANDIDUS by replying to GRYPHIUS, admitted the propriety of discussion. GRYPHIUS PES introduced NO NAMES; not even a hint of one; but CANDIDUS brought forward Mr. A. R.—, and thence followed a large *Dramatis Personæ*, where the general question might have been discussed without such allusions

The subject is a general one, and every Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon in the Service is interested in it: all therefore have a right to send you their opinions upon the same, and as free to do so as CANDIDUS. It surely cannot be a crime to think differently from an unknown Writer; or base or clamorous to espouse either side of an interesting question. Let CANDIDUS reflect on these things, and if he expects A TRIUMPH; let him seek for one more honourable than that of leading his Readers from the argument, to smile at his witty prognostics; or, futile attempts of shewing that his adversary has conspired to raise a clamour against him.

CANDIDUS may be right, but let him prove it. If he can do so, and show (that all he stickles for, if obtained, will be an advantage to the Service) ALL THE HEROIC WILL SUPPORT HIM.

Yours obediently,

Dum-Dum,

AN OBSERVER.

\* It was not permitted the Athenians to use the Epilogus or Peroration for the purpose of moving the passions of their auditors.

## CURRENT VALUE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Remittable, . . . . .	Premium, . . . . .	30	0	4	31	8
Non-Remittable, Certificates, 5 p. ct., . . . ditto, . . .		6	0	4	7	8

\* Original:—"Poor subjects of the State."—TRANSLATOR.

† Intended, perhaps, for Mercer, or Measures.

## ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—141—

### Mr. Mack's Last Lecture.

Mr. Mack gave his Last Lecture on Tuesday evening to a numerous company of Ladies and Gentlemen. The subject was ELECTRICITY; one of the four chemical forces noticed in the first Lecture which has the power of modifying chemical affinity, and which has become so useful an agent in the analysis of chemical bodies. It was left for the subject of the last Lecture, because it has to do with many chemical changes, which if it had been introduced sooner would not have been understood.

If a piece of sealing wax and dry warm flannel be rubbed together, they both become capable of attracting and repelling small bodies. Paper rubbed with India rubber and glass rubbed upon silk exhibit the same phenomena. In these cases the bodies are said to be *electrically excited*, and when in a dark room they always appear luminous. If two pitch balls be electrified by touching them with the sealing wax or with the flannel they *repel* each other, but if one be electrified by the wax and the other by the flannel they *attract* each other. Some amusing experiments were made with saw dust and pitch balls to illustrate these qualities. Bodies similarly electrified *repel* each other, and *vise versa*. Some bodies—as the Tourmaline—become electric by heat.

The electric fluid is supposed to pervade all substances, and when undisturbed remains in a state of equilibrium. When a body acquires more than its natural quantity, it is said to be electrified *positively* or *plus*. If less it is electrified *negatively* or *minus*.

Some bodies allow electricity to pass freely through them and are called *conductors*; others receive it only on the spot touched and are called *non-conductors*. The former do not generally become electric by friction and are called *non-electrics*; the latter on the contrary are *electrics*, or acquire electricity by friction. Metals are the best conductors. Glass is a *non-conductor* when cold, but a conductor when red hot.

A body is *insulated* when in contact with electrics only. A body may be insulated by putting it upon a stool with glass feet.

Different kinds of electrometers were shewn: they ascertain the presence of electricity. The gold-leaf electrometer is made with two strips of gold-leaf which are suspended from a brass cap and wire in a glass cylinder: they hang in contact when un-electrified, but when electrified they diverge. The kind of electricity may be judged of by approaching the cap of the instrument with a stick of excited sealing-wax: if it be *negative*, the divergence will increase; if *positive*, the leaves will collapse. The intensity may be measured by the quadrant electrometer.

Two kinds of electrical machines were exhibited, the cylinder and the plate. The plate machine was the one used for the experiments. Machines of this construction have considerable power, are easily cleaned and excited, and are more portable than the cylinders; but as they cannot be conveniently insulated the negative electrical power cannot well be exhibited, so that for the purposes of experimental research, the plate machine is preferable. The unfavorable state of the atmosphere prevented the success of some of the experiments, such as the Electrical Star, Luminous Spiral Tube, Luminous Word.

The Leyden Phial is a glass jar coated on both sides to within 2 inches of the top with tin-foil. When the inner surface is rendered positive by union with the conductor of the electrical machine, the exterior being connected with the ground, becomes negative by *induction*. When the two surfaces are united by a conductor, all electrical accumulation is annihilated by a powerful spark, and the two opposite states are found to have been precisely equivalent. If the communication between the sides be made by the hands, a painful jarring sensation is felt at the joints and chest, called the electrical *shock*. Metallic wires, with balls at their end joined to a glass handle called *Dischargers* are commonly used to transfer the electrical charge. Metallic points attract the electricity from bodies silently or without producing spark or shock. A further accumulation of electricity is effected by connecting several jars together, to form a *battery*, which can be charged and discharged at once.

There are other sources of electricity: glass when rubbed with mercury or blown upon with a pair of bellows becomes electrified. When bodies change their forms, the electricity changes: as when water is converted into vapour. When an insulated plate of zinc is brought into contact with one of copper or silver, it is found after removal to be electrified positively, and the silver or copper negatively. The most oxidizable metal is always positive in relation to the least oxidizable metal, which is negative. If the metals be placed in the following order, each will become positive by the contact of that which precedes it, and negative by touching that which follows it: platinum, gold, silver, mercury, copper, iron, tin, lead, zinc; those farther asunder, such as platinum and zinc produce the greatest effect. If many alternations be made of copper and zinc leaf and paper moistened with salt and water, they will produce a spark and shock. They are called *Galvanic Piles* or *Batteries*; in which the *intensity* of the electricity increases with the number of alternations, but the *quantity* is increased by extending the surface of the plates.

The Galvanic Battery used by Mr. Mack consisted of 50 pairs of plates, 4 inches square, upon Dr. Wollaston's principle, disposed in 5 troughs with 10 cells each, made of Queen's ware. In this arrangement, the zinc and copper plates instead of being placed alternately as in batteries of the common construction, are so combined that there is double the quantity of copper in the troughs, each Zinc plate being placed between two of copper in every cell: the latter are connected by short slips at top and bottom, and have a neck by which they are fastened at top to the zinc plates and to a bar of wood which serves to lift them out of the trough when necessary; the plates of each cell are kept at the proper distance by pieces of cork. The first apparatus used by Dr. Wollaston though made out of a tailor's thimble, was sufficiently powerful to ignite and fuse a fine platinum wire.

Common and galvanic electricity are of the same nature. When the two connecting wires touch, they produce a flame as in electricity; the shock is similar and the fluid passes through similar conductors, but the striking distance or length of sparks is less; the chemical changes effected by them are similar; a Leyden jar may be charged by Galvanism and metals ignited and fused. Some very interesting experiments were made to shew the mode of fusing the metals, by bringing them within the circuit and making mercury form part of the connection, the moment that gold and silver loaf, &c. were made to touch the mercury, they burnt with a beautiful flame, each metal producing a flame of a particular colour: thus silver produced a green coloured flame, &c.

The galvanic charge is less violent than electricity, and does not scatter the particles of ignited wires, but it is more powerful in disuniting the elements of chemical combinations.

A bent tube was filled with water which was decomposed by galvanism. When the wires from the extremes of the battery were immersed in the water, oxygen gas was liberated at the positive wire or pole, and hydrogen gas at the negative one.

Mr. Mack described the methods adopted by Sir Humphrey Davy for decomposing water, salts, the alkalies, &c. but as it would occupy too much space to follow him in the description, we will refer our readers to the Philosophical Transactions for 1807 where they will find a detail of the experiments and the conclusions drawn from them.

The grand law of electro-chemical decomposition, established by Sir H. Davy, is that metals, inflammable bodies, alkalies, earths and oxides are determined to the negative surface or pole; and oxygen, chlorine, iodine and acids to the positive pole.

Such are the chemico-analytical powers of electricity that not even insoluble compounds are capable of resisting their energy: for even glass, sulphate of barytes, fluor spar, gypsum, marble, &c. when moistened and placed in contact with electrified surfaces, from the voltaic apparatus, are sensibly acted on; and the alkaline, earthy or acid matter slowly carried to the poles in the common order. Not even the most solid aggregates, nor the

firmer compounds are capable of resisting this mode of attack. Its operation is slow, but the results are certain and sooner or later: by means of it bodies are resolved into simpler forms of matter.

Mr. Mack concluded his Lectures by thanking his auditors for the indulgence which they had shewn him. If he has not given the satisfaction which he wished, he attributed it to disappointments and to the difficulties attending a first attempt to deliver Lectures on a scientific subject. He hoped to meet them again ere long, but had not as yet determined upon the subject for his next Lectures, whether it should be the Chemistry of the Arts and Sciences, the union of Chemistry and Geology or Experimental Philosophy: the latter would probably be preferred, if he could complete his apparatus, as it would be attended with fewer difficulties, not requiring so large a collection of facts.

Mr. Mack seems to think it will be desirable to instruct the Natives in the Arts and Manufactures dependent upon Chemistry, such as Soap making, Dyeing, Glass making, Metallurgy, Pottery, Tanning, Candle making, Agricultural Chemistry, &c.

### Selections.

**Madras, February 25, 1823.**—The Honorable Company's homeward-bound Ship COLDSTREAM, from the Pilot the 15th instant, anchored in the Roads on Sunday.

The Staff and remains of his Majesty's 34th and 53d Regiments of Foot proceed to England in this Vessel.

The Cape Trader SCOTIA, Captain Agnew, also arrived yesterday morning. She left Table Bay on the 10th of December.

**Passengers.**—Mrs. Thomas, Miss Pentine; Colonel Hodgson, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Hill.

We have not been successful in our enquiries for news from this Vessel. However, many of our readers will be pleased to hear that the WINDSOR CASTLE, Capt. Simon Lee, had arrived at the Cape—all well. The ALLIGATOR had sailed for Bombay some days before the SCOTIA took her departure.

We are sorry to learn that the Rev. M. Davis departed this life at the Cape early in December.

We have not been able to obtain any information about the GENERAL PALMER, which is not surprising as she intended to touch nowhere on the Passage.

The homeward-bound Ship PROVIDENCE took her departure for London on Saturday morning.

**Passengers from Madras.**—E. Pewsey, Esq. Lient. Col. Ingloby, 53d Regt. Captain Cubben, Madras Army, Captain Hendrick, Dr. Mendez, and Lieutenant Thomas.

Lady Harriet Paget landed from the PROVIDENCE on Thursday and passed the day with Lady Campbell. Her Ladyship embarked again in the evening, and was accompanied to the Beach by his Excellency the Commander in Chief and Suite.

**His Majesty's Ship TERMAGANT** and the Honorable Company's Ship WARREN HASTING\*, and the LARKINS free trader, will all sail about Saturday next. The CATHERINE will be ready for Sea about the same time.

**Earthquake.**—In Friday's Supplement we noticed the Earthquake which was distinctly felt at Madras on Sunday week—This is a very unusual occurrence in this part of the world, and we have received various communications upon it. It was experienced in the Nilgherry and the Country in that direction, as well as generally along the Coast. We have conversed with several persons who were greatly alarmed by the Phenomenon. It will be seen that in Travancore the shock was felt nearly twenty minutes later than at Madras. We understand that in the Island of Ceylon it was experienced with more violence than on the Continent of India, though we have not heard of any damage occasioned by this alarming visitation.—*Madras Courier.*

**Bombay, February 19, 1823.**—A deputation of the most respectable Natives of Bombay waited on Mr. Bell at Palm House on Monday the 10th for the purpose of presenting an address to that Gentleman on his departure from India.—Mr. Warden and Mr. DeVitre, attended at their special request to assist in the ceremony.—Hormunjee Bomanjee, addressed Mr. Bell in a short and appropriate Speech announcing the object of the Meeting and delivering the address to Mr. Warden requested that he would oblige the Subscribers by reading it to the Meeting.—Mr. Warden expressed to Mr. Bell the gratification he experienced in officiating as the Medium of communicating a sentiment so highly creditable to himself and so honorable to the Individuals who were parties to it, and having read the following Address presented it to Mr. Bell accompanied by an expression of his congratulations on the occasion.

To the Hon'ble Alexander Bell,

HON'BLE SIR,

We the undersigned native Inhabitants of Bombay, on the occasion of your departure from this Country, feel ourselves irresistibly called upon to express to you how deeply and sensibly we are impressed with sentiments of sincere respect, esteem and admiration for your Character. It would be an act of great injustice in us, were we to withhold these united and public expressions of our sentiment.

Your Residence in this Country upward of 30 years has afforded us full opportunity of witnessing your upright affable manly and honest character. Your departure from this Country is a source of deep affliction to us. Do not believe Sir that this is the language of adulation. It emanates with ourselves—we feel as for a departed friend, &c. as we are desirous of living in your memory when public cares no longer intrude themselves upon the mind, we beg to offer for your acceptance a piece of Plate Value 400 Guineas which our friends Messrs. Bazett, Farquhar, Crawford & Co. in England will have the gratifying Task of presenting to you on your arrival in that Country. We trust it will continue as a lasting memorial in the retirement of your life, of the admiration of your public and private character, and of the very grateful Tribute of affectionate remembrance of your Indian Friends.—

Wishing you a pleasant voyage and a happy meeting with your Family and Friends in England—we very respectfully bid you farewell and Subscribe ourselves with much Sincerity.

Your Obliged and Humble Servants.

Hormunjee Bomanjee,	Kazee Golam Hussein,
Norojree Jamsetjee,	Cursetjee Cawasjee,
Karacjee Urdasur,	Dudabhooy Pestonjee,
Jehangeer Ardaser,	Davidass Hurjeevandass,
Framjee Cawasjee,	Nagurdass Heerjee Mody,
Jamsetjee Jijeebhoy,	Juvarehund Atmaram,
Jehangeer Naservanjee,	Mootchund Amichund,
Norojree Naservanjee,	Morashoor Dhakjee,
Limjee Cawasjee,	Agah Mohamud Sustry,
Sorabjee Cawasjee Patell,	Mohamud Ally Rogay,
Hormunjee Dorabjee,	Norojree Cawasjee,
Talsedas Monakjee,	Merchant of Travancore.

To which Mr. Bell, returned the following reply.

To Hormunjee Bomanjee, Jamsetjee Jijeebhoy Cursetjee and Jehangeer Ardaser, Davidass Hurjeevandass, Cajes Gulam Hussein, &c. &c. Native Inhabitants of Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg you will accept the assurance of my heart felt gratitude for the kindness you have evinced towards me in the sentiments of esteem and regard contained in the Address which I have just had the honor of receiving from you.—If in the discharge of my duty during a long course of service in this Country it has been my good fortune to obtain the approbation of the respectable Native Inhabitants of this Presidency, it is to me, a source of the utmost gratification and I shall ever remember with feelings of the purest delight the very flattering testimony which you have this day afforded me of your good-wishes.

I accept as a mark of your esteem which I greatly value, the offer of a Piece of Plate, under the Sanction of the Hon'ble Court of Directors, which I shall apply for through Government. This substantial proof of your good will towards me will be handed down to my Children, and will be cherished by them as highly as it is valued by me.

Receive Gentlemen the honest assurances of my earnest wishes for your welfare happiness and prosperity, and believe that I shall retain a fond remembrance of this splendid and most gratifying mark of your kindness towards me on the occasion of my final departure from India; at a period when by my return to the walks of Private life, the motives which have influenced this proof of your good will, cannot be mistaken.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient Servant,  
Bombay, Feb. 18, 1823

A. BELL.

**Benefit Concert.**—Mr. Kuhlau's Benefit Concert on Thursday evening, we were sorry to notice was very thinly attended, the room not being above a third part full. From whatever cause this may have proceeded, we thought that with the exception of a few parts, the performances were rather dull.

It appeared to us that this remark peculiarly applied to the *Ordure d'Elise* in the first act, occasioned no doubt by the want of instruments which was but too evident, and the *Andante* and *Pollara* in the second, which although repeated on the call of only one individual (for there was only one who called out *encore*) we really did not think deserving of it. The song by Mr. J. Linton was very sweetly sung and the well known excellencies of his voice afforded a rich treat to those who heard it, which was only equalled by Mr. Schmidt's air from the Opera of "*El matrimonio Secreto*." The accompaniments to this Air are very pretty, and were played with much effect and precision by

Tuesday, March 11. 1823.

- 143 -

the orchestra.—The variations on the Violoncello on three Russian Airs, were well executed by Mr. Kuhlau, particularly the last movement, and proved the masterly power which Mr. Kuhlau possess over this instrument. Miss Kuhlau, a pretty interesting little girl of about 11 years old, sung "Fly swift ye Zephyrs" with much precision and propriety, and was, as she deserved, loudly applauded.—Her voice, however, it may be expected is not yet formed and is rather pleasing from its sweetness than from its power or variety. The concluding part of the first act was one of the best performances of the evening, and went off amidst loud and continued plaudits.

The principal attraction of the second act was a German Air by Mrs. Kuhlau, the sweetness of whose voice cannot fail to charm whatever may be the language in which she employs it.—The Concertante by Devienies which opened the second act was particularly attractive in the Flute Solos, and the Violoncello part was well supported by Mr. Kuhlau.—But while we pay Mr. and Mrs. Kuhlau these compliments which they so justly merit, we must not forget a Glee of Dr. Rogers's sung by Mr. Linton with much effect, nor "The tear fell gently from her eye" by the same gentleman which was repeated after having been loudly and deservedly applauded by every one present.—*Harkara.*

*River Navigations.*—The shocking occurrence which has for some time rendered the portion of the River, immediately below Sooksagur, a subject of public attention, and of frequent newspaper reference, has naturally led to a variety of consequences. Although the murder itself can scarcely be attributed to any other cause than to the impulse of private revenge, arising from deadly and perhaps long cherished animosity, yet the halting step, with which justice has pursued the perpetrators, has operated with the most injurious effect on the minds of the evil disposed in the Mofussil. Alive only to the present moment, they calculate on impunity as the result of somnolent investigation and the absence of immediate and striking example proves the incentive to outrage. It is not then to be wondered at that native irritation, whether justly or unjustly excited, should now vent itself in threats of similar vengeance,—that the advance from insolence to outrage should be accelerated in the transactions of those who are naturally turbulent,—that opportunities should be sought for quarrelling with European residents by those who formerly waited for something like the appearance of aggression,—and that old dacoits, who have been long compelled by the salutary and strong coercion of former days to abstain from depredation, should cherish favorable hopes of returning trade, and actually determine to enter on the harvest of crime, while justice appears to sleep in the arms of delusive security.

Late events are sufficient to justify these observations, and to shew that the spirit of insolence and aggression is abroad, although the instances which have been quoted in the newspapers may be somewhat coloured beyond the exact truth by the narrators. Admitting, however, a great degree of misapprehension on the part of those who meet with obstruction after they have prepared themselves for premeditated attack, there remains enough to furnish grounds for increased activity on the part of those who have to watch over the tranquillity of the places complained against, and to warrant the cautious look-out and careful preparation for danger, of those who are liable to attack during their progress up or down the River. That such due caution and preparation is now pretty generally attended to, we have every reason to believe; and although we are not aware that the auction price of fire arms and muzzle whangers has experienced any great increase, it is not unlikely that the sale of such articles has been sometimes accelerated of late, and that a few of them have passed Sooksagur in serviceable trim, which might otherwise have still remained in the auction godown.

The results of this caution have no doubt been various. It may have prevented attacks, which would have been otherwise destructive; for dacoits, although desperate fellows, are not fond of receiving impulsive hints from leaden messengers, and they will rather stay idle at home, than brave a law which serves out summons and sentence with the same breath. It must have often spread security and peace over the feelings of those who passed in the twilight or at dawn along the river between Sooksagur and Bansbariab. It may nevertheless have led to strange alarms, in cases of unforeseen obstruction from accidental causes, while the apprehension of attack was uppermost in the thoughts, as those who believe in goblins can distinguish a spectre in every bush, when they are compelled to traverse a common in the obscurity of the night. Least, however, we should be charged with prosing on a subject which has been so inordinately mouthed of late by Calcutta politicians of all classes, we shall here close our observations, appending, after the manner of the most distinguished didactic writers, a narrative which has reference to some one of our positions, as the reader will find in the sequel.

Not long ago a gentleman, who left Calcutta by water carriage had passed Bansbariab at a very early hour in the morning, and was approaching Sooksagur at a favorable rate. His boat had reached the scene of the late deplorable catastrophe, when the Sun began to diffuse his benignant rays over the broad expanse of waters which were hurrying upward, and over the stunted jungle, on either margin of the River, with the more stately trees of the forest that raised their heads in the distance. The sight was a lovely one to those who delight to contem-

late the only scenery which Bengal exhibits; but it was lost on the aforesaid gentleman, not from any indifference on his part to the beauties of Nature, but because he was fast asleep. His spouse was also by his side, and nought disturbed the quiet of the boat but the paddling of the oars and the snoring of a handmaid, stretched at length on the deck of the fore cabin, and more ponderous in her dimensions than waiting women generally are in this country. The venetians were close shut, so that Phœbus had no means of announcing himself to those who were unaware of his appearance. Notwithstanding the tranquillity which prevailed in the interior of the boat, and the notoriety of the scene which she had reached, still no security reigned within which could be pronounced thoughtless or improvident. In one corner lay a brace of pistols, of which one of Nelson's boarders might have been proud, and they contained the stuff that could have quieted the most turbulent on earth. In another corner was a carbine equally prepared to calm the ferocity of any aggressor, with a bayonet on its nose, like a rider to a bill of Pains and Penalties: and in a third a trusty rifle was also ready. By way of appendix to this additional supplement, there hung within reach, a trusty sword, rather better calculated for use than show, and not an unworthy ornament for the hand, which was ready to wield it, if necessity should so require.

The boat, thus armed and occupied, was advancing rapidly, and the sumpter and store gallery, which is the usual appendage on such occasions, was following in the rear, when suddenly a complete check was experienced, and comparative quiet was on the instant converted into absolute uproar. The advance of the boat was stopped, and a thundering noise on deck, but more so alongside, appeared like the confusion of tongues at Babel, and betokened a most extraordinary commotion indeed. The serving lady, however, who occupied the centre of the fore cabin, lay still, as insensible to the passing hurricanes as the pistols or carbine; and it also required something more than simple joggings to rouse the gentleman abeam from his slumbers. He was, however, soon made sensible that some obstreperous fray prevailed on the outside, and as he started up, he grasped the trusty steel, and lost no time in sallying forth to ascertain the nature of the row. It is not always safe, however, to have the venetians of a boat shut close at night: for the suddenness of the alarm in this instance prevented him from opening them to reconnoitre the enemy, which he no doubt would have done had some of them been left open; and in making his nearest way out, he was prostrated over the snoring elephant of a waiting woman. This check rendering increasing promptitude necessary, he speedily started up with a quick and forward motion for the door—but mistaking the distance, his head came in contact with it before his hand, and thus he both gave and received the first blow before he could leave the shades around him for the scene of tumult. Recovering from this, he opened the door and rushed out, but so keen were his *ogles* (in the language of the FANCY) to eye the condition of those who might have come to prove troublesome customers, that he cast no look below, and unfortunately broke his shins against the steps of the ladder.

Return we, now, to the dormitory abeam, where the gentleman's spouse was more collected, but, perhaps, also, more anxious. Unable to account for the uproar, but calculating on danger, she forthwith grasped the pistol, and making a tour round the elephant, had reached the door ready to hand them out by the time that her husband found himself on his pins upon the deck. Judge, however, ye sagacious readers, who can enter into the feelings of the people of old when they saw the mouse come out of the mountain in labour, how ineffably ludicrous were his sensations, when, with sword in hand, and with a brace of auxiliaries in the rear in the hands of his spouse, he found his appearance had resolved the unintelligible and obstreperous noise that had called him, forth into sounds less violent and right easy to be understood, the fiercest being an incessant repetition from many quarters, of "*Dewhai Sahib! Dewhai Sahib!*" from the throats of a parcel of surrounding fishermen, in whose nets the boat had been unfortunately entangled, and from which accident the first jargon of obstreperous screaming and objugation had arisen among the dandies on board and the fishermen alongside.

It is unnecessary to add, that this occurrence, under all its circumstances, proved an abundant source of merriment during the farther progress of the parties; and those who are accustomed to trips on the river are aware how much any out-of-the-way adventure tends to relieve the tedium of such navigation.—*India Gazette.*

*A Wonderful Calf.*—We hear, that some days ago, there was a Cow in the Factory of Moorsahabad, belonging to Sambhoo Chender Deb, of Ranaghat, and it was customary with her to bring forth Calves in eight or nine months but they were all of an irregular form. Among them we are surprised to hear the case of one: The Cow, having herself delivered a Calf at night, the neighbouring people came in the morning and saw it was dead. Some thought it had died in the womb, and others said it had expired after delivery. However, what we have now heard was we think never heard before by any other person: the dead Calf had three eyes, and a mouth resembling a tiger. The owner on this occurrence sold the Cow, and on the night of the very day she was sold, three of the Merchant's boats were sunk and lost: being frightened at this, he bought the Cow again at 20 rupees.—*Shumochar Chandroki*, Ed March 1823.

—144—

**Note to Correspondents.**

The Letter of SCIPIO reached us too late for insertion in to-day's Paper; and a number of other Letters with which we have been favoured are also necessarily delayed.

**Earthquake at Nagercoil, Southern Travancore.**

To the Editor of the Madras Courier.

SIR,  
A slight shock of the above was felt at Nagercoil and the adjacent Country between the hours of 1 and 2, P.M. on Sunday the 9th inst. It appeared to travel in a Southerly direction, and was unaccompanied by any rumbling noise usually said to attend these phenomena.

The explanation of the Brahmins of the large Pagoda here, affords a remarkable instance of the avidity of the Hindoos for the marvellous, and of the ingenuity of their Priests in supplying them: They affirm that the shaking of the earth was caused by the Cow, on one of whose horns they describe it to be placed, changing it to the other, which she does every 12 years; the earth they say is shaken in the passage, more or less considerably, according as the Cow manages its task; more or less adroitly.

I leave it to some one of your readers, better skilled in Hindoo Mythology, to explain it better, and am, with respect,

Yours, &amp;c. &amp;c.

Nagercoil, 10th Feb. 1823.

ANON.

**St. Andrew's Church.**

"My house is the house of Prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.

SIR,  
Happening to pass St. Andrew's Church, a little after dark yesterday evening, my attention was arrested by a bustle and some light in the veranda to the northward. The novelty of this in a Presbyterian place of worship induced me to approach to reconnoitre this strange circumstance. On drawing near to the fray, I found it occasioned by a concourse of people assembled for the purpose of passing the night. In one part of this spacious veranda were to be seen, people of different religions and various employments, some praying, others sleeping, smoking, talking, &c. and a few of the most unruly quarrelling, about their respective sleeping places. I would ask any one who has the least regard for religion, his opinion of this circumstance? The momentary effect which it produced on my northern nerves, was the desire of instantly expelling these idolatrous intruders from a place dedicated to the worship of our God, and I was only prevented from so doing by two gentlemen who accompanied me on my walk.

I am a Presbyterian, and attender of the Scotch Church, and I consider the number of people assembled in the veranda exceeded by one half, the small congregation who met on Sunday last, for the purpose of hearing the Revd. Preacher. In hope that this may be favored with a place in your paper, and that it may serve as a hint to those who can prevent this abuse of the house of God, from again occurring.

I remain, your obedt, Servant,

Calcutta, March 7th 1823.

A SCOTSMAN.

**Shipping Arrivals.****BOMBAY.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Feb. 15	Assomgao	Portg.	M. J. da Log	Macao	Oct. 17
16	Helen	British	G. Langley	Muscat	Feb. 3
16	Hartlett	British	T. Mitchell	Muscat	Feb. 7

**Shipping Departures.****BOMBAY.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Feb. 15	Charlotte	British	J. Stevenson	England
16	Felicitas	British	P. Campbell	Bushire

**MARRIAGE.**

At Cossimbazar, on the 7th instant, by the Reverend W. EALES, Major G. SWINNEY, Deputy Principal Commissary of Ordnance, to MARIA ALESSANDRA, eldest Daughter of ALEXANDER HALL, Esq. late of the Medical Service of Bengal.

Printed at the Columbian Press, No. 4, Bankshall Street.

**The Sensitive Plant.**

To —————, with a Sensitive Plant.

Accept, sweet Maid, this tenderest of plants,  
And rear it with attention, and with care;  
Give it to feel the sun-beam's genial glance,  
And shelter from the chilling wintry air.  
So shall it long in blooming beauty live,  
And while it flourishes in verdure gay,  
Observe the instruction which its virtues give,  
And mark the morals which its leaves convey!  
Though now it blooms so delicately gay,  
If the beholder but to touch it tries,  
From the rude hand it coyly shrinks away,  
And in a moment, withers, droops and dies:  
So blooming fair, yet delicate and nice,  
Is female honor, while with virtue crown'd,  
But when it feels th' unhallow'd touch of vice,  
It droops, decays, and dies upon the ground;  
Yet soon the plant from transient death revives,  
A few short hours its beauty shall restore;  
But female honour ne'er a stain survives,  
When wounded once, it falls, to rise no more.

Culpee. Belle Vue Garden, }  
Jan. 7, 1823.

ARICULA.

**Stations of Vessels in the River.**

CALCUTTA, MARCH 9, 1823.

At Diamond Harbour.—CONDE DE RIO PARDO, (P.) inward bound, remains.—RUMBANO, (D.), passed down.

Kedgeroe.—LORD WELLINGTON, (P.), outward bound, remains.—ENTERPRENT, (F.), and IRMA, (F.), passed down.

New Anchorage.—H. C. Ships GENERAL HEWETT, sailed for England.—THAMES.

Saugor.—DAVID SCOTT, outward-bound, remains.

**Passengers.**

Passengers per Helen, from Muscat to Bombay.—Colonel Kennett, Captain Watt, Lieutenant Le Meissier, Mr. R. Nemmo, and Lieutenant Herne, H. C. Marine.

Passengers per Charlotte, from Bombay for England.—Mrs. Smith and Child, Major T. C. Craig, Lieutenant and Adjutant Smith, Lieutenant J. Doron, Captain Thomas Ridcock, Surgeon Featherston, Paymaster Tovey, and Child, Quarter Master J. Merrys, Ensign Harris, and Master Dodds.

Passenger per Felicitas, from Bombay for Bushire.—Doctor M. Tavish.

**Administrations to Estates.**

Mr. William Casey, late of Berhampore, a Pensioner in the Honorable Company's Bengal Military Establishment, deceased.—Mr. Michael Cockburn, of Calcutta, Clerk in the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Mr. William Mackintosh Sinclair, late of Sydney, in New South Wales, of the Honorable Company's Bengal Marine Establishment, deceased.—Mr. William Ewin, of the Town of Calcutta, Mariner.

Mr. Ter Stephanou-e, Ter Arratoon, late of Dacca, Armenian, deceased.—Mr. Arratoon Ter Stephanou-e, of Calcutta, Merchant.

Henry Charles Ramsay, Esq. late of Manchester-street, Manchester-square, in the County of Middlesex, deceased.—George Mackillop, of the Town of Calcutta, Merchant and Agent.

Mrs. Agatha Valente, late of the Town of Calcutta, deceased—Doctor Lewis Burdin, of the same place.

**Birth.**

On the 8th instant, Mrs. ANNE PYVA, of a Son,

**Death.**

On the 8th instant, after an illness of 18 months, Sergeant JOHN LEWIS, Garrison Key Sergeant of Fort William, aged 58 years, 22 of which he had spent in the service of the Honorable Company.